

A GUIDE TO JEWISH GENEALOGY

KRAKÓW



KRAKÓW; A GUIDE TO JEWISH
GENEALOGY

Pictured on cover: Woodcut of Krakow from the Nuremberg Chronicle, by Hartmann Schedel (1493) and detail from Miasto Krakow z gmina Czarna Wies i Kawiory w Galicyi, 1900 (City of Krakow, 1900)

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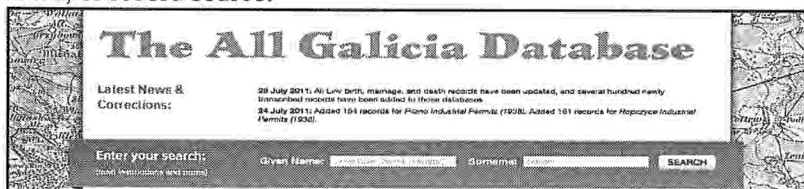
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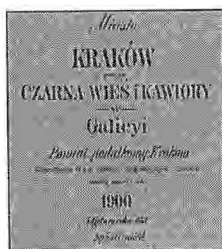


Gesher Galicia (“Bridge to Galicia”) is the special interest group for people researching their Jewish roots in the former Austrian province of Galicia. Its goals are to promote a forum for researchers to share information and to promote individual and group research of Galicia.

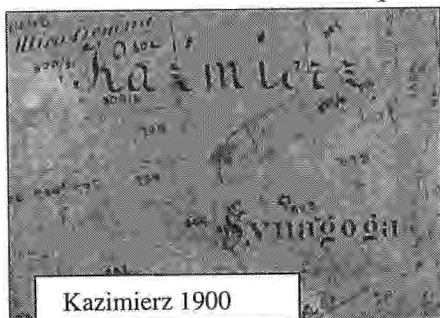
We host a website: www.GesherGalicia.org along with two searchable databases: The **ALL GALICIA DATABASE** at www.search.geshergalicia.org and the Cadastral Map & Landowner Records Inventory at: <http://tinyurl.com/MapsofGalicia>. The All Galicia Database (AGD) search engine currently features close to 200,000 records from 41 different data sources, and will grow over the few months. It covers everything from Galician birth, death, marriage and divorce records to phonebooks, school and landowner records and can be searched by given name, surname (and “kinnui” or Jewish nickname) with data sorted by town, or record source.



We also coordinate the Cadastral Map, Landowner and Voter Records Project, which began in 2007 as a long-term initiative to inventory and obtain cadastral maps and property records from archives in Ukraine and Poland and to index the information contained therein to further family history research.



As Galician researchers accumulate records containing house and parcel numbers, their interest in cadastral maps has also grown. As described by Brian J. Lenius, author of the book, *The Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia*: "Three distinct property land surveys were conducted for all of Galicia during the Austrian period of the 18th and 19th



Kazimierz 1900

centuries. These consisted of detailed records showing the



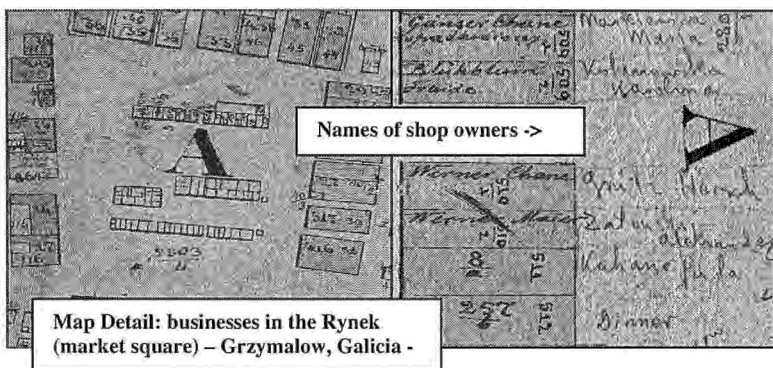
size of land parcels, type of land, crops grown and more. The Austrian Stable Cadastral Survey of the 1830s to 1860s consisted of records and extremely detailed maps showing the smallest parcels of land, individual yards, houses, barns, roads, field plots, cemeteries, churches and



Krakow 1848

synagogues. At least three versions of these maps were created at the time including a field sketch, a preliminary drafted version and the Cadastral Map in full color. At least one or more versions of these maps still exist for most villages and towns." By matching details and the information in the land

record books to the maps – along with comparing the maps to house numbers on vital records – you can see exactly where in town your ancestors once lived and draw conclusions about possible relatives. Many houses were handed down through



marriage. Details on Jewish families who owned buildings in the market square, where they conducted business, were often handwritten on cadastral maps. The merging of these new data sources with traditional metrical records will offer Galician researchers a more comprehensive portrait of the lives their ancestors lead. Taking birth records—and the house numbers listed on them – and linking them to online maps, will be one of the new features on the Geshen Galicia website.

262	29	Young	11/11	25	May	11/11	11/11	01	Maximilian	/		/
2				17	11/11	11/11		11	Joseph	/		/
Krakow Birth Register – 1874 House # is to the left of given name										11/11	/	/
4				20	June	11/11		13	Reuben	/		/

Geshen Galicia is a membership organization with annual dues, which include a subscription to “The Galitzianer,” a scholarly, quarterly journal focused on Galicia covering topics of interest to Jewish family historians. Members and nonmembers contribute articles and suggestions for articles on a variety of subjects on Galician history and society, travel experiences, photos, research results, advice on obtaining records, and stories from their own

Galicia family history. Town and regional research groups and town historians provide updates to each issue.

The Gesher Galicia Town Historians and GG Research Groups collect and share information relating to families that once lived in their focus towns or administrative districts (A.D.). Current GG members serve as historians or coordinators of their town or regional groups. Gesher Galicia publicizes their activities.

We invite you to join us! (Click **Join GG** on our website home page.) Your contributions enable us to maintain our databases and continue funding research. Members will soon have access to a special password-protected members-only site, which will include the "Gesher Galicia Family Finder," and images of historical Galician maps and records.

Gesher Galicia also puts on a slate of Galician-themed programming annually at the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, along with holding regional meetings, focusing on our research with tutorials and updates, in the U.S. and internationally throughout the year. If you'd like to host a GG program in your locale, contact us for more information.

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INTRODUCTION

I start the introduction to this small book with some self doubt. Many books have been written about the Jewish community of Kraków. Far more books than have been written about Jewish life in the English towns of say Manchester or Leeds. It is true that those towns are essentially the product of the Industrial Revolution whereas Kraków had a great importance in much earlier times. Possibly the number of books about Kraków Jewry arises out of a perception that memories and facts about the community need to be recorded before it is too late.

Bearing in mind the number of books which have already been published, is there a need for another one? Particularly a book written by someone whose family left the city as long ago as the 1870's. Such chutzpah! Why is this book different from all other books?

Well I humbly suggest two reasons. Firstly it is incomplete and secondly it is written backwards. In case you should think this is complete nonsense, let me explain.

Both attributes reflect the nature of genealogy. Firstly, as genealogists we never complete our jigsaw which has infinite dimensions. This book is therefore not intended to be a complete work. For example at www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Krakov/kra_bibliography.htm, the Jewishgen site, which is described in the Guide, lists more than a hundred books or articles which have been written about Kraków. Many of these are not mentioned in the following pages. This Guide may therefore be regarded as little more than a first draft. However it is intended to show readers (if there are

any) how to use some sources, and also to encourage them to identify and research other sources of information and bring them to the attention of the genealogical community.

If there is ever a second edition of this work, hopefully it will include a list of thankful acknowledgements to people who have suggested improvements to this edition. In the meantime I am pleased to thank the following;- my friend Brian Greene for his encouragement; Anna Biela for her help at the Archives in Kraków; and Paul Auerbach for his information about passports in the 1870's and the 1870 census.

As for writing a book backwards - normally a history book or a biography starts at an earlier time and proceeds forwards to the future. We genealogists work the other way round. No wonder some people do not understand us!

It may be useful to make four further observations at this stage.

Firstly, although the book is divided into chapters which are identified by time periods, those periods are to some extent arbitrary. That is because some sources of information span different periods. Perhaps the most important example of such a source is the classic two volume work of Majer Bałaban 'Historja Żydów w Krakowie i na Kazimierzu, 1304 - 1868'. In 2003 this work was published in Ivrit as 'Toldot ha'Yehudim b'Krakov uve Kazimierz 1304 - 1868.'

The title of that work leads to the second observation. References to 'Kraków' which can also be spelt Cracow, Kroke, or Krakau or even קראקא are not always strictly correct. That is

because the Jewish town of Kazimierz was an independent entity until the beginning of the 19th century. Sometimes, therefore, the name 'Kraków' has been used as a convenience. In this Guide the area under review has been called 'Kraków' in the interests of consistency, except where another spelling has been used in the title of another work. On occasions the word should also be taken to include the southern suburb of Podgórze

Thirdly, hopefully most readers would agree that there is more to genealogy than listing names and dates. Although this is not a history book references will therefore be made to historical and sociological matters so that the sources of genealogical information can be placed in context. By way of example, a history of the community from the earliest times to the present can be found in the introductory chapter of volume 23 of 'Polin' which is published by The Institute of Polish-Jewish Studies in Oxford.

The fourth observation is that a genealogical study of Kraków needs to be considered in the context of Polish genealogy as a whole. It is therefore useful for a researcher to be aware of the broader Polish picture, all be it within the confines of Jewish genealogy. Such a broader understanding can be gleaned from various publications of which the following are examples.

'A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Poland' by Susan Fifer is one of a series of guides published by The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. The website of the Society is located at www.jsgsb.org.uk As the name suggests the Guide gives a useful over view. It contains chapters on Galicia (that part of southern Poland including Kraków which was occupied by Austria in the 19th century), and 'Planning a visit to Poland'.

'Avotaynu' is the name of a quarterly journal of international Jewish genealogy. Based in New Jersey, USA the journal and its publishers can be found at www.avotaynu.com Linked with the journal is an electronic news letter called 'Nu? What's New?' Subscription to this is available at a very modest cost through www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm The publishers have also produced a number of books, one of which is 'In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide - Polish' by Jonathan Shea and William F Hoffman. An alternative work is 'A Translation Guide to 19th - Century Polish Language Civil Registration Documents' by Judith Frazin. This was published by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois in 1989.

Sadly, this is only one of several books which are relevant to Kraków Jewish genealogy but which are no longer in print. Fortunately, however, these books may often be found in libraries or on internet second hand bookshops.

A full description of the various books published by Avotaynu is to be found at www.avotaynu.com/allbooks.htm

Very little of this work arises out of my own original research. Most of it is a summary of the research of others. As Gershon Hundert said in his introduction to 'Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the Eighteenth Century', I have felt like a pirate raiding the work of colleagues and predecessors. I readily acknowledge the footsteps which they have made, so that to some limited extent I have been able to follow.

I would specifically like to thank my colleague Michelle Pilling for her computer skills (mine being particularly limited) and my

long suffering wife, Linda. She clearly did not know what a meshuggener she was marrying 40 years ago. I also thank Pamela Weisberger of Gesher Galicia for her encouragement and advice.

Hopefully this small work will prove useful and informative. I hope it will also be a worthwhile journey in time – not so much back to the future but forward into the past.

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THE PRESENT AND RECENT PAST

It is arguable that the present is not of great genealogical interest, except possibly that it is a source of genealogical research for the future. Nevertheless this short section has been included in this book in order to illustrate that there continues to be a Jewish community in Kraków in the early part of the twenty first century.

The community is currently headed by its President Thadeus Jakubowitz. Thadeus succeeded to the Presidency from his cousin Czesław who died in 1997. The tombstones of Czesław and other members of the Jakubowitz family are recorded in a book 'The Jewish Cemeteries in Cracow' which was published in 2004 by the Association of Cracovians in Israel. The address of the Association is POB 17209, Tel-Aviv, 69051, or alternatively through lili@lyhaber.com. The names in this book are in alphabetic order according to the Hebrew alphabet so that, for example, the Jakubowitz family appears under the letter yud or ' on page 151.

Since Czesław has passed on, perhaps it would be wrong to devote too much time to him in a chapter entitled 'The Present'. It is worth mentioning however that an interview with him is recoded in 'Remnants - The Last Jews of Poland' by Małgorzata Niezabitowska

Czesław himself was appointed President in order to replace his family member Maciej who died in 1979.

The Jakubowitz family have featured in a variety of publications ranging from a supplement to the (London) Jewish Chronicle

dated 22 September 1978 to a book entitled 'Blowup – The New Jewish Cemetery in Krakow' published in 2006. The use of the term 'Blowup' relates to the fact that the book is mainly a collection of large photographs taken in the cemetery.

Until recently, it was barely possible to consider the current Jewish community of Kraków without mentioning Henryk Halkowski, the self styled 'last luftsmensch of Kraków'. Henryk was a fountain of knowledge about the community and its institutions, and was often to be found at the Klezmer Hois, one of the Jewish style restaurants on ul Szeroka.

In 2004 Henryk, together with Michał Rożek gave a memorial lecture 'The Jews in Cracow, a 700 year history'. The lecture is much shorter than the subject would suggest and it has been published in English, by the Judaica Foundation, Center for Jewish Culture which is based at ul Meisela 17. The introduction reads:-

'Henryk Halkowski, long known as the 'Guardian of Cracow's Jewish legacy', is an essayist and translator, by training an architect and philosopher, and by avocation a researcher of the Jewish past and present of Cracow. His books bear titles that translate as 'Jewish Life', 'Legends from the Jewish Town in Kazimierz by Cracow', 'Mysteries of Jewish Cracow', and 'Tales of Rabbi Nachman of Bracław '

The book 'The Jewish Cemeteries in Cracow', records the passing of Stanislaw Halkowski in 1977 and Salomea Halkowska in 1993 (page 117) Sadly, the present slips inevitably into the past, and on New Years Day 2009, Henryk at the age of 57 joined his ancestors Stanislaw and Salomea.

Of course there are other members of the community. Many were not born in Kraków or were moved out of the city during the Nazi occupation. That is largely why they survived. Others were handed over into the care of non Jewish families during the war. Some of their descendants 'married out' and others, possibly not fully Jewish according to religious law, have only recently discovered their Jewish roots.

In 2008, one of the oldest 'newcomers' to the community was a Mr Stein. A visitor writing in the Jewish Telegraph newspaper (Manchester, 19 December 2008) described him as a 94 year old 'in pretty good shape' who leads the regular minyan in a strong Ashkenazi accent.

In the early part of the 21st century, the community also includes what may be termed temporary or part time residents. These are people from outside, particularly from Israel, America and the United Kingdom, who support the institutions of the community such as the synagogue, the community centre, the Judaica Foundation Center for Jewish Culture, and the Galicia Jewish Museum at ul Dajwór 18.

Those temporary or part time residents have included a number of Rabbonim (Rabbi's) of varying religious shades. The communal Rabbi who had been in post in 2006 had left by 2008. In that latter year the community had the benefit of three Rabbi's - the 'official' one, Rabbi Pash, the 'Chief Rabbi of Galica', Rabbi Gluck (from Brooklyn), and a Lubavitcher Rabbi from Israel, Rabbi Guerary. Additionally, once a month the community was visited by a female guitar playing Rabbi who held services in the Massolit bookshop. The Progressive Beit Kraków congregation is now lead by Rabbi Tanja Segal

and its activities can be found on www.beitkrakow.pl

Many articles have recently been written about the current community in Kraków. Michael Lee, writing in the Jewish Telegraph in December 2008 described the Jewish district as ‘a Potemkin village in a ghost town, a Disney-land of tourists driven round in yellow golf carts, the recorded spiel in German, English, Polish or Hebrew.’ Certainly one cannot escape the paradox of an important historical centre of Jewish culture with a current Jewish population of fewer than 200 souls.

An article which appeared in ‘Jerusalem Letters’ published in May 1997 by the Jewish Center for Public Affairs can be found at www.jcpa.org/cjc/jl-358-misak.htm . In the article, the author Sonia Misak asks – and to some extent answers – ‘Who is a Jew in Cracow?’ She also touches on other topics such as the Impact of the Lauder Foundation and the restoration of Synagogues.

The Lauder Foundation has established many projects in Eastern Europe, and in Poland particularly. It was largely responsible, for example, for the restoration of the Tempel (Reform Synagogue) in Miodowa Street, Kraków. This is now next to the new community centre, opened in 2008, and funded by World Jewish Relief with support from The Prince of Wales. The Centre operates a bilingual (Polish and English) website at www.jcckrakow.org where its activities are advertised. The Lauder Foundation also funds a genealogy project at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

‘Google’ and similar searches will reveal a wide range of information about the Lauder Foundation, and other current institutions operating within the Kraków Jewish community.

The Community itself operates a bilingual (Polish and English) website at <http://krakow.jewish.org.pl/>

The current community, and the memory of past communities, receive the attention of a number of non Jewish supporters. Some of these are academics whose works are mentioned in this Guide. One such supporter is Prof Aleksander Skotnicki, a professor of the Medical Faculty at the Jagiellonian University. He is currently establishing a Centre of Dialogue at ul. Stradomska, 11. Prof Skotnicki's background is described in his article 'Kraków is Everywhere' in the bilingual work 'Świat Przed Katastrofą' (A World Before a Catastrophe).

THE POST HOLOCAUST PERIOD

A Summary

The period since 1945 may seem a barren period from the point of view of genealogists. Yet some sources of information are available particularly if the net is widened to include the 'Kraków diaspora'.

If it is agreed that it is helpful to put genealogy into a general historical context, then reference should be made to the book 'The Jews of Cracow' by Eugeniusz Duda. This book, published in about 2000 is particularly concise but informative. In some ways it is based on an earlier book by the same author, 'Krakowskie Judaica' published in 1991. The later book has the advantage of having been translated into English.

In his account of the Jewish postwar community, Mr Duda indicates that the Jewish population in the first post war years was about 6,000. This figure included only about 2000 who had lived in the city before the war. The book gives a brief description of the communal groups that operated, so far as possible, in the old Jewish quarter but quite clearly the re-establishment of Jewish life was limited by anti-Semitism, including anti-Jewish riots in Kraków in August 1945. 'Because of such an atmosphere in the city, the Jews treated Cracow as a temporary stop on their way, which led to the West and often overseas.'

As a result of at least three waves of Jewish emigration that are identified by Mr Duda, much of the post war history of the Jewish community of Kraków relates to places outside that city.

Reference is made elsewhere in this Guide to volume 23 of 'Polin' the journal of The Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies which is based in Oxford. Two works which appear in the book are

'The Image of Post War Kraków in Jewish Writing, 1945-1950' by Monika Stępień and

'Kraków in Post 1945 Jewish Literature' by Katarzyna Zechenter.

Images of the post Holocaust period can also be obtained from various photographic collections which have been published. These include

Krakowski Kazimierz by Jan Władisław Rączka (1982) and

Krakowski Kazimierz – Dzielnica Żydowska 1870-1988 by Stanisław Markowski (1992)

The shtetlinks jewishgen website for Kraków

For genealogists, a useful starting point may be the Jewishgen website www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/. At first sight it appears that no new information has been added to the site since August 2005. The 'what's new' button lists information which has been added to the site from October 2002 up to October 2005 but apparently no later. On closer inspection of the various sub menus, however, it can be seen that new information, and links, continue to be added. Prior to August 2002, a great deal of information had been posted on the shtetlinks site. Some of this information now seems to have been transferred to other sites, particularly the Shoreshim site which is mentioned in later chapters of this Guide.

The shtetlinks site menu has a number of sub menus, one of which is entitled 'vital records'. This sub menu lists marriages and deaths of Jews originating in Kraków who emigrated to Antwerp. The periods covered are 1926 to 1958 (marriages) and 1917 to 1946 (deaths). There is also a listing of deaths in Belgium generally for the period from 1944 to the end of the twentieth century.

Undoubtedly, however the largest waves of Jewish emigration from Kraków have been to Israel and America.

The site which has been mentioned gives information about the Association of Cracovians in Israel (site menu, help and projects, Cracovian Society-Israel – or see the list of information by clicking on 'what's new' April 2003 or go to www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Krakow/kra_association_of_cracovians.htm) It gives an address of P O Box 17209, Tel Aviv, 69051. Much of the output of the Association is in Ivrit (modern Hebrew). However some work of the Association is of benefit to genealogists who do not understand that language. For example the book 'The Jewish Cemeteries in Cracow' was published by the Association in 2004. That book lists a large number of burials in the Miodowa Street cemetery in the post war period. Having said that a word of warning and a piece of information are due to those visiting the cemetery. The warning is that it is more difficult than one would imagine actually to locate the gravestone of an ancestor, even one who died in the post war period. The information is that it is customary not to shake hands on the cemetery in Kraków, and possibly elsewhere in Poland.

Several times a year The Association of Cracovians in Israel

publishes a newsletter (in Ivrit). Copies of the newsletter, Nowiny Krakowskie, from March 2007 onwards can be viewed through a link with the Eilat Gordin Levitan website which is described at the end of the next chapter of this work.

The shtetlinks site has a further source of information relating to former Cracovians living in Israel. This can be found on site menu, names lists, misc lists, the parochet.(or through the 'what's new' listing for March 2003). The web page gives information about an ark covering which was donated in 1958 by Israelis to the museum which is housed in the Old Synagogue in Kraków. The page lists about 80 names which are inscribed on the covering.

The Association of Cracovians in Israel has 'adopted' the Ironi 'H' High School in Tel Aviv which holds an extensive library and other learning resources linked with Kraków Jewry.

A book 'Ich Miasto' (Their City) by Anis Pordes and Irek Grin was published in 2004, and describes the reminiscences of Israelis who were pre-war residents of Kraków

The second destination for Jews exiting Kraków in the post war period is of course the United States of America. It is apparent from the shtetlinks site that several Kraków landsmanschaftn (emigrant groups) had established themselves in America before the war. 1965, however, saw the formation of the New Cracow Friendship Society. That Society can be contacted at 647 Dogwood Avenue, West Hempstead, NY, 11552 or at Roman647@optonline.net The Society has a website at www.newcracowfriendshipsoc.org The Society publishes a periodic newsletter to its members (as does the Association in

Israel though the Association's newsletter is in Ivrit)

In 1990 the New Cracow Friendship Society published a book to commemorate its Silver Anniversary. Much of the book is made up of pages devoted to departed relatives. However, amongst the other pages can be found an article on Jews from Kraków as Builders of the Jewish State in the post war period.

One of the many Israeli sources of information is the Center for the History of Polish Jewry at Tel Aviv University. In 2001 the Centre published 'Kroke-Kazimierz-Cracow: Studies in the History of Cracow Jewry' Information about the book which is in Ivrit can be found at www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/kra_history_of_Krakow.htm

Reference is made later in this work to another Israeli source, The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People. This is based at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. However, according to an inventory published by Avotaynu in 2004, the Archives do not hold any records for the post Holocaust period.

THE HOLOCAUST

A Summary

In terms of time, the years 1939 to 1945 account for less than one percent of the history of the Jewish community in Kraków. It is a period between now and history. Clearly it is not now, but at least whilst there is still one survivor alive, it is not yet history.

Although the Holocaust provides an important source of information (albeit nearly wholly negative), it must also be recognized that a vast amount of data was destroyed during this period. 'The Destruction of Jewish Libraries and Archives in Cracow during World War II' is the title of an article by Marek Sroka which appeared in 'Libraries and Culture' (University of Texas Press) – Volume 38 Number 2, Spring 2003.

In practical terms it is surely impossible for anyone interested in Jewish genealogy to study this period purely in terms of names and dates. The very quantity and nature of the information which is available to those who are interested arise from the exceptionally awful events of the times. Arguably it is therefore appropriate for genealogists to start their research by reading at least one of the many accounts of the times written by a survivor.

The 'Library of Holocaust Testimonies' is a series of books published by Valentine Mitchell to record the memories of survivors. Typically, each book starts with an account of a pleasant lifestyle in pre war Kraków. The book then describes the deterioration of conditions through ghettos, labour camps

and extermination camps and then relates how the survivor rebuilt his or her life after the war. From a genealogists point of view the books have a disadvantage in that they do not have name indexes. The books in the series which relate primarily to Kraków, with their dates of first publication in the series are as follows.

My Lost World by Sara Rosen, 1993

An End to Childhood by Miriam Akavia, 1995

I Light a Candle by Gena Turgel, 1995

Have You Seen My Little Sister? By Janina Fischler-Martinho, 1998

Who Are You, Mr Grymek by Natan Gross, 2001 and

My Hometown Concentration Camp by Bernard Offen, 2008

Oscar Schindler

It is virtually impossible to consider Kraków in the Holocaust period without coming across the name Oscar Schindler. This person (and personality) came to the attention of the public as a result Thomas Keneally's book 'Schindler's Ark' for which the author was awarded the Booker McConnell Prize in 1982. Since then there has been a film, and a whole host of books about Schindler himself, those on his list, his wife, the film and all related matters. From a genealogists point of view not only do these books give useful background information; they - or at least some of them - also give information about individuals and families.

A particularly good example of such a book is 'Schindlers Legacy - True Stories of the List Survivors' by Elinor J Brecher. Chapters in this book are devoted to some three dozen

individuals and their families.

It would be beyond the scope of this work to list all publications connected with Oscar Schindler. However the following is a short list in no particular order.

Oskar Schindler - The Untold Account of his Life, Wartime Activities and the True Story behind the List by David M Crowe, Westview, 2004

A Girl from Schindler's List by Stella Müller-Madej, 2006

Oskar Schindler and his List edited by Thomas Fensch, 1995

Where Light and Shadow Meet by Emilie Schindler, 1996

The Girl in the Red Coat by Roma Ligocka , 2003

Oskar Schindler, In the Eyes of Cracovian Jews Rescued by Him by Prof Aleksander Skotnicki, 2008

The Road to Rescue by Mietek Pemper, 2008

Searching for Schindler by Thomas Keneally, 2008

Oskar Schindler: Stepping Stone to Life by Dr Robin O'Neill, 2010.

Some of the books, particularly those by David Crowe and Mietek Pemper include extensive bibliographies for further reference. Furthermore some of the books in the Library of Holocaust Testimonies, for example that written by Bernard Offen, contain bibliographies.

In June 2010 the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków opened a new branch at Oscar Schindler's former factory at ul. Lipowa, 4. Those premises now house a permanent exhibition relating to the period under Nazi Occupation. The website of the Museum is available in English and can be found at www.mhk.pl

Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa

Rather too little recognition has been given to the gallantry of the Jewish Fighting Force, Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa (The ŻOB). The Force largely comprised members of B'nei Akiva and Hashomer Hatzair. A leading work on this subject is Aleksander Bieberstein's work 'Zagłada Żydów w Krakowie' Although this work has not been translated into English, it has the benefit of a lengthy names index. It also includes a street plan of the Ghetto area.

For those who understand Ivrit, further information about the ŻOB can be found in Aryeh Bauminger's work 'Lochmee Gito Krokuv' (גיטו קרקו The Fighters of the Kraków Ghetto) published in 1967

The book Pamiętnik Justyny by Gusta Davidson Draenger was published in 1946. Fifty years later it was published in English as 'Justyna's Narrative'. It is 'essential' reading for those who do not yet know about the ŻOB.

In 2008 the Galicia Museum in Kazimierz staged an exhibition on the Jewish Resistance. A bilingual (English and Polish) catalogue was produced under the editorship of T Strug and entitled 'Fighting for Dignity; Jewish Resistance in Kraków'.

Yizkor Books

A 'Yizkor' Book is a particular type of book in that it is published as a memorial to a Jewish community which was, in effect, destroyed in the Holocaust. Extracts from such books can

be found in 'From a Ruined Garden - The Memorial Books of Polish Jewry' by Jack Kugelmass and Jonathan Boyarin. The second edition of this book was published by Indiana University Press in 1998. Unfortunately, however, the book does not give specific information about Kraków.

Arguably the 'main' Yizkor Book about Cracow is 'Sefer Kraka, Ir v'Em b'Israel' which was edited by Dr A Bauminger of the Rav Kook Institute. The book was published in 1959. Unfortunately it has not been translated into English. However an Index in English can be found at www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Krakow1/Krakow1.html

The book contains three chapters about the Holocaust period - Jews in Kraków During the Nazi Occupation, Jewish Life during the Holocaust, and Rebels of the Krakow Ghetto. The last of these chapters describes the work of the ŻOB.

A list of Yizkor Books can be found on www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/database.html This site shows a description of Yizkor Books for each location, libraries which hold those books, and links to relevant translations. For Kraków, the site shows not only Sefer Kroke, ir va-em be-Yisrael but also 'Dape Hantsahat le-Kehilat Kraków' published in 1969 by the Municipal Secondary School No 5 in Tel Aviv. Also listed is 'Ha Yehudim be- Kraków' published in 1983 by the Kraków Commemoration Committee in Haifa.

A further reading list

A 'classic' work about the Holocaust Period in Kraków is the account by Tadeusz Pankiewicz. This was originally published in 1947 as 'Apteka w Getcie Krakowskim'. It has since been

translated into many languages including Ivrit and French. The English version is 'The Cracow Ghetto Pharmacy'. The author was one of the few non Jewish occupants of the Ghetto. He ran the pharmacy which now houses a museum on The Square of the Ghetto Fighters - formerly and ironically called Plac Zgody – The Peaceful Square.

It is beyond the scope of this work to include a full bibliography relating to Kraków during the Holocaust. However the following is a partial list of books which have not yet been mentioned.

The Krakow Diary of Julius Feldman, published by Quill Press, 2002

Those Who Never Yielded by Moshe Prager, published by Light books (Light of Torah Society) 1980

Wśród Przyjaciół I Wrogów by M M Mariańscy, 1988

Zamordowany Świat by Katarzyna Zimmerer, 2004

Dear God, Have You Ever Gone Hungry? By Joseph Bau, 1996

The Beautiful Days of my Youth by Ana Novac, 1997 and

And The Sun Kept Shining by Bertha Ferderber-Salz,

To Life! A Story of Survival by Nathan Offen, 2009

Yad Vashem

Arguably the largest repository of records relating to the Holocaust is Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. General information about the Archives can be found, of course, on the Yad Vashem website, but also in the reference work 'A Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research in Israel' by Sallyann Amdur Sack (1995). This book is, unfortunately now out of print. However the website of the publishers, www.avotaynu.com is a valuable

source of where Jewish genealogical information can be found. A Google search of the Yad Vashem website reveals the following lists for the Kraków area.

Several lists of Jewish victims in the Płaszów Labour Camp, 1942

A list of Jewish craftsmen in Kraków

Lists of Jews originally from Kraków in Rejowiec, 1941

Lists of Jewish victims in the Kraków region, 1942

A list of Jews in Kraków who were Board members of the Jewish Wealth Help Organisation (ŻSS), 5 November 1941 and

A list of Jews in Kraków who were responsible for the spring Holy Days activities, 25 March 1942.

The shtetlinks website which is mentioned below shows, includes an item added in May 2003, a list of 450 Holocaust survivors from Kraków who submitted testimony which is lodged at Yad Vashem. This is linked to the searchable database of such testimonies.

The Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington

A further source of information about the Holocaust period is the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. The site www.ushmm.org/research/collections/search will provide a wide range of archives if the researcher carries out location searches such as Płaszów and Kraków. It is also worth noting that the Museum holds many books and documents relating the pre Holocaust period.

The Wiener Library, London

The Wiener Library is a, and possibly the, major reference source in the United Kingdom for documents relating to the Holocaust. Its website is at www.wienerlibrary.co.uk The catalogues can be searched on line. Searching for Kraków produces over 60 hits and a search of documents reveals the following

Copy discussions on the anti Jewish congress on Kraków, 1947

The trial of Amon Goeth: copy proceedings, 1947 and

Jews of Kraków: copy news cuttings, 1941.

Further items can be identified by searching on Cracow, Krakau and Płaszów

The Shtetlinks Jewishgen website for Kraków

It is impossible in a work such as this to account for all the sources of information which are available to those who search. However mention must again be made of the Jewishgen site www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/. Clicking on the site menu there is a sub menu for cemeteries, yizkor, and Holocaust. The 'Holocaust' contains the following lists and other pieces of information.

Maps of the Ghetto and the Camp at Płaszów

Ghetto registrations, parts 1 and 2

Extracts from the book 'The Fighters of the Kraków Ghetto' by Arie Bauminger in Ivrit but with a list of names in English characters

A list of Jews in the Ghetto (clicking on this leads to the Shoreshim site which enables a name search of the Ghetto)

A list of Jews who lived in Germany, registered in the Kraków

Ghetto in 1940

A list of Kraków Jewish refugees in Vilna

A summary of names of individuals for whom testimonies have been submitted to Yad Vashem

A list of Kraków survivors (this data has been temporarily removed as it is being transferred to the main Jewishgen site)

A list of orphans from Kraków believed to have survived the Holocaust

A 'Schindler's List' of Jewish inmates of Brännlitz in Czechoslovakia

A list in Ivrit published in the Davar newspaper, listing people in the Kraków Concentration Camp in 1944 and

A list of arrested people working in the new factory for refrigerators and aircraft parts, names associated with Oskar Schindler

A list of names in connection with Kraków property restitution

A list connected with a mass execution at Niepolomice, a suburb of Kraków, August 1942

Unfortunately the home page for the shtetlinks site does not always display the 'site menu' button. However some of the information which has been listed can be accessed by way of the 'what's new?' button. For example information about 450 Kraków survivors was added to the site in May 2003. Other information can be obtained through the Shoreshim site which is described below. A further item on the Shtetlinks Jewishgen website for Kraków can be found in the sub menu 'names – lists – misc lists'. That is a list of almost 2,500 Polish Jews from a register in Kraków taken sometime in 1941 or 1942.

Going back to the Shoreshim site, there are further lists of Holocaust survivors in Cracow.

The Shoreshim site

The Shoreshim website, can be found at www.shoreshim.org/en/default.asp This site is dedicated to the preservation of information relating to the Jewish communities of Poland. It has a wealth of information relating to the Kraków community. By clicking on the 'what's new?' button on the home page one can gain some idea of the rate at which new information is being added to the site.

The site contains a large number of data bases. Some of these are freely open to the general public whilst others are available only to paid up members. The annual subscription is modest in relation to the information which is made available.

By going to 'contents' on the data bases sub menu, a researcher can find a list of brief descriptions of the various data bases. By clicking on each description, a more detailed description becomes available. For example, clicking on 'various Kraków lists – 1939 Kraków directory' reveals that Shoreshim has obtained a list of almost 6,400 names from the city's telephone directory of 1939, and that the data includes first name, last name, occupation (Shoreshim paid up members only), telephone number and street number and name.

The contents page of the data bases sub menu lists the following items for the Holocaust period:

Births and deaths, 1939 to 1942

'Kennkart' registrations, i.e. registrations relating to identity cards in February and March 1941

Ghetto registrations, 1940
Holocaust survivors in Kraków and
Post War registration of Holocaust death reports.

The Shoreshim data bases for the Holocaust period and, indeed, for other periods are searchable by family or last name (with spelling variations or part spelling). On the face of it, it does not appear possible to browse the various data bases for general information or research. Accordingly, each name has to be searched separately.

The Shoreshim home page has a link to a Kraków research forum. This was founded by Julian Schamroth, Judy Goldstein, and Dan Hirschberg. The Schamroth family is the subject of an extensive history contained in a book 'These are the Generations' which was published in Israel in 2002. The main author, Julian Schamroth can be contacted at P O Box 327, Kiryat Yearim, Israel 90840, or at jscham@zahav.net.il or through the Shorehim site.

Dan Hirschberg has worked in producing an extensive website at www.ics.uci.edu/~dan/genealogy/krakow/ which is concerned primarily with information extracted from the 18th century censuses and other records of the Cracow Jewish community. On the right hand of the screen the Shoreshim site has a link to the Kraków State Archives. This leads to contact details of various departments within the City of Kraków and its surroundings.

Eilat Gordin Levitan's Site

The site located at www.eilatgordinlevitan.com is dedicated to

the memory of the Jewish population who perished in the Holocaust. It contains information relating to more than fifty towns and villages, including Kraków. The site includes literally hundreds of photographs relating to the Kraków community during the Holocaust and the period leading up to it. Many of the illustrations are photographs of named individuals. Also linked to the site are sections regarding the following matters, amongst others:-

Old and new scenes

The Ghetto

Jewish children who survived

Partisans

Stories and bibliographies

Survivors born in Kraków

The 1st Young Men's Cracow Burial Society and

The 1st Krakowitzer Burial Society

The Eilat Gordin Levitan site also has areas where researchers can post questions and searches, and direct links to many other sites of interest to genealogists which are described in this work.

BETWEEN THE WARS

Arguably the leading work on the inter war period is Sean Martin's book 'Jewish Life in Cracow 1918-1939'. This was published by Valentine Mitchell in 2004. The book follows on from an article by the same author which appeared in the Jewish History Quarterly (Issue 04/2004) under the title 'Homeless in Cracow - a case study of Polish Jews and their relationship to Poland and Polish Culture'. Both the book and the article describe the conflicts which existed between traditional life in a closed Jewish community and the more modern lifestyle in a newly independent state. Reference is made elsewhere in this Guide to Gesher Galicia, the journal of the special interest group for Galicia. Sean Martin's book was reviewed in the November 2005 issue of the journal.

Other works by the same author include:-

'Jewish Youth between Tradition and Assimilation; Exploring Polish-Jewish Identity in Interwar Kraków' which appeared in 'Polish Review', 46 (2001) and

'Future Generations; Associations for Jewish Children in Kraków 1918-1945' in volume 23 of 'Polin', the journal of The Institute for Polish Jewish Studies in Oxford.

Education

The book by Sean Martin covers different aspects of life, including the Jewish Press and 'The Yiddishist Reaction to Assimilation'. The book also contains two chapters about the Jewish education system,

Making Jews Polish - The Education of Jewish Children in Polish Schools and
Maintaining Community - Jewish Participation in Private Jewish Schools.

A great deal of information about schools is available for one reason, if not more. That is because the pre war period is within the personal memories of several Holocaust survivors. Reference has already been made to the 'Library of Holocaust Testimonies' and books in that series often begin with accounts of childhood memories, sometimes detailing middle class and comfortable lives which contrast starkly and brutally with the existences which are to follow.

Partly due to the memoirs of Survivors, a great deal of information is available about school life. For example, in his book 'Who are you, Mr Grymek?' Natan Gross gives a detailed account of his time at the Hebrew Secondary School. After 1936 this was officially known as the Chaim Hilfstein Private Coeducational Secondary School. More generally, the secondary school was referred to as the 'Gimnazjum'. A history of this establishment was published in Polish and Ivrit in 1989 under the title 'to była Hebrajska Szkoła w Krakowie'. The book includes a list of the names of the teaching staff.

A further source of information for Ivrit readers is S Lesser's 'Beit sefer ha'ivri bekroke, 1908-1939' (Haifa, 1990)

Further lists of teachers and pupils are available from the site at www.shoreshim.org

Readers of German can discover more about school and

university education in 'Juden in Krakau - ein historischer überblick 1173 - 1939' by Jehuda L Stein.1997.

In the introductory chapter of volume 23 of 'Polin' (pp 42,43) Michał Galas and Antony Polonsky refer to the University enrolment records for the interwar period which appear to be available to genealogists and historians.

As a further example, reference should be made to 'My Lost World' by Sara Rosen. The author was brought up in a religiously observant Hassidic family. Her book, part of the Library of Holocaust Testimonies, gives a detailed account of her religious experiences between the wars - these include aspects of religious education, but also her memories of Shabbos (Sabbath) and the various Festivals.

No account of Jewish education in Kraków, however brief, would be complete without some mention of the Beis Yaakov movement. This movement, founded in Kraków and led by Sarah Schenirer, revolutionised the education of orthodox Jewish girls. At least two books on the subject have been published (by Feldheim) in English, both written by Pearl Benisch. These are 'To Vanquish the Dragon' (1991) and 'Carry me in your Heart' (2003). Unfortunately neither book has an index of names.

Two articles relating to Beis Yaakov are included in volume 23 of 'Polin'. These are:

'Sorah Schenireer (1883-1935), Founder of the Beis Yaakov Movement; Her Vision and Her Legacy' by Caroline Scharfer and

'The Borderland; The Beys Yaakov School in Kraków as a

Symbolic Encounter between East and West' by Agnieszka Oleszak.

B'nei B'rith

A further group of sources relating to life before the second world war is in connection with the humanitarian group B'nei B'rith. One such source is a 1994 publication of The Jagiellonian University, 'Archiwum Związku Żydowskich Stowarzyszeń Humanitarnych B'nei B'rith w Krakowie (1892 - 1938)'. A copy of this book, and several others regarding Jewish life in Kraków is to be found in the Eastern Europe Collection at the British Library. Although the book is written in Polish, it is useful to genealogists in that it contains an index of names of members.

Information extracted from this book can be found at www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Krakow/kra-bnei_brith_officers.htm which lists Lodge Officers from 1895 to 1918

A further source of information is the address book of B'nei B'rith members which was published in Kraków in 1937. This book gives not only names and addresses but also occupations and telephone numbers, and the date of admission into the brotherhood. The book gives information about Lodges throughout Poland. Details relating to the Kraków Lodge (other than telephone numbers) can be found at www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Krakow/kra_bnei_brith.htm

An article about B'nei B'rith in Kraków is included in the work 'Sefer Kroke' (page 313).

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People is located on the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. It is a useful source of historical records which have been collected from a wide range of archives in central and eastern Europe. The Archives are described in 'A Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research in Israel' by Sallyann Amdur Sack published by Avotaynu. In 2004 Avotaynu published a catalogue of Polish Sources at the Central Archives. The catalogue refers to the following documents.

Reports of Achduth B'nei B'rith and Solidarność B'nei B'rith in Kraków, 1928; and correspondence of Achduth B'nei B'rith in Kraków with Achduth B'nei B'rith in Stanisławów on financial and organisational subjects, 1930-33.

As a point of interest, in 1935 the 'Solidarność' branch of B'nei B'rith sponsored the publication of Prof Bałaban's guide book 'Przewodnick po Żydowskich Zabytkach Krakowa'.

Zionist and sporting organisations

Other aspects of interwar Jewish life are also documented. For example the book which was published in 1990 to commemorate the silver anniversary of the New Cracow Friendship Society includes articles entitled
Zionism in Cracow - The Interwar Period and
Maccabi Cracow - The Pride of the World of Sports

Documents held in Jerusalem at the Central Archives for the History of Jewish People include speeches and newspaper clippings relating to Maccabi in Kraków for the period 1909 to 1939. Further information is contained in S Lesser's work

‘Makabi-kroke veyehudim besport bekroke’ (Haifa, 2005).

Jewish Youth and Sport are also the subject of a chapter in the book ‘Juden in Krakau’ by Jehuda L Stein, which has already been mentioned.

Additionally the book ‘Sefer Kroke’ includes articles on the following movements and organisations starting at page 207

The National Zionist Organisation in Western Galicia
Mizrachi
Akiva
Poalei Tzion
Hashomer Hatzair
Gordonia
Hitachdut
The Revisionist Party and
Agudat Israel

These movements had widely differing philosophies but it is documented that these differences were put aside when young men and women fought the common enemy as members of the Jewish Underground (the ŻOB).

Theatre

Amongst the many social activities which thrived in the interwar period was the Yiddish Theatre. A great deal of information on this subject is available to researchers, for example in the work ‘Juden in Krakau’ which has already been mentioned. A more detailed account is to be found in ‘Teatr Żydowski w Krakowie - Studia i Materiały’ which was published by the Jagiellonian

University in 1995. This work contains a number of articles which are written in Polish but summarised briefly in English. Furthermore the work includes a lengthy index of names. It also includes a biography of Mordechaj Gebirtig the 'Man of Theater' (1877 - 1942).

Unsurprisingly, the Ivrit book 'Sefer Kroke' also includes articles on The Jewish Theatre in Kraków (page 352) and specifically on Mordechaj Gebirting (page 360). Additional material is available from volume 41 of Pamiętnik Teatralny (1992).

The book by Sean Martin has been described in detail. However, one should not overlook a second book which describes the Jewish community in Kraków between the wars. This is the bilingual work 'Świat Przed Katastrofą – A world before a Catastrophe' published in 2007. This work, like Sean Martin's includes a detailed name index. It also includes a number of photographs, many of which are not included in other publications. 'A World before Catastrophe' additionally includes a collection of works by different authors, covering religious and social organizations, Zionist and youth groups, and health and education. This work, and the exhibition with which it is associated, are reviewed by Hannah Kozińska-Witt in volume 23 of 'Polin'.

Further information is no doubt available from the Polish language work by S Piech 'W Cieniu Kościołów I Synagog; Życie Religijne Międzywojennego Krakowa, 1918-1939' (In the Shadow of Church and Synagogue; Religious Life in Interwar Kraków, 1918-1939) which was published in 1999.

The Press

An aspect of the Kraków community which does not seem to have been researched from a genealogical point of view is the press. This is surprising because of the number and variety of publications which existed. Chapter 2 of Sean Martin's book is devoted to the interwar press and part of the bibliography illustrates the range of publications that were published. Arguably the leading one was Nowy Dziennik, but there were many others such as Gazeta Gminna and Dos Yidische Wort.

One aspect of the Jewish press is discussed in volume 23 of 'Polin', particularly in a paper by Janusz Fałowski, 'The Political Thought of Nowy Dziennik in its Early Period; July 1918 – February 1919'. Previously, Czesław Brzoza wrote an article 'The Jewish Press in Kraków which appeared in volume 7 of 'Polin'. A further work on this topic, in English, is Mr Brzoza's 'Jewish Periodicals in Cracow (1918-1939). This appeared in 'Bibliographies of Polish Judaica' linked to a symposium which was held in 1988.

The Shtetlinks Jewishgen website for Kraków

In considering the period 1918 to 1939 one must not forget the Jewish site for Kraków - www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/

As previously noted, if the main 'site menu' function is not working, some information can be obtained by using the 'what's new?' button. Other information can be accessed via the Shoreshim site as described later in this chapter.

The sub menu 'names lists' includes voters lists for 1929 and

1935. The 1929 list contains the names of male Jews eligible to vote for the Polish General Election in the constituency of Cracow, District VIII - Kazimierz. It contains almost 7,000 individuals.

The Jewishgen site also includes a listing for the 1935 elections. This list includes the address, occupation and date of birth for each of the registered voters. Further information on elections can be found in volume 23 of 'Polin', particularly a paper by Czesław Brzoza 'Jewish Participation in the Elections to Kraków City Council during the Interwar Period (1919-1939)'. This work includes a list of Jewish councilors on the Kraków city council for the years 1918 to 1933.

Also in the 'names' list of the Jewishgen site is a sub menu for memberships. This includes B'nei B'rith members as already mentioned. The same sub menu also gives a list of names of committee members who organised the 45th Anniversary Dinner of the United Krakauer Charity and Aid Society. This dinner was held in 1937 in New York. Also given are names of the officers, directors and members of the Society.

The sub menu additionally gives information relating to the Bet Lechem Fund members' list of 1924. This fund was established to assist Jews in Palestine. There is also a list of Kraków Landsmanshaften. That is to say organisations of former residents of Kraków which were established in New York, such as the Krakauer Society incorporated in 1855, and various young men's associations, and a Cracow Dramatic Society, and a United Cracow Charity Society, and a Ladies Benevolent Society, and a Progressive Association, leading up to the New Cracow Friendship Society, incorporated in 1965.

There is then the sub menu entitled 'shuls and rabbis' including the voters list for the Kupa shul (synagogue) 1905, being members of the synagogue who were entitled to vote for the shul committee. The website also includes a list of male members of the Izaaka Synagogue for 1939.

The sub menu 'names list - directories' gives a list of house holders for 1907. There are also lists from the 1929 and 1935 Kraków Business Directories. Additionally, a 1929 Directory, and its section on Kraków province can also be viewed via www.jewishgen.org/databases/.

Linked with the 1907 directory is an item on the shtetlinks site, sub menu for 'images and documents - maps - districts and streets. This gives information about the conversion of addresses from the districts system to the street system. For example, house number so and so in district VIII, Kazimierz, becomes number so and so of such and such a street. The 1907 changes seem to be the last of a series of alterations to the method of describing house numbers and locations. References to earlier changes will be given in the next chapter of this work which relates to the Austrian period.

Further inter war documents or records can be found from the sub menu 'names lists - misc lists', including a list of almost 1,500 names of Jews who in order to emigrate renounced their Polish nationality prior to 1939.

The miscellaneous lists sub menu also gives information about the Jewish Hospital, including the names of doctors in 1935. An article on the Jewish Hospital is also to be found in 'Sefer

Kroke' (page 324).

A further list in 'Misc lists' submenu is a list of notable Jews in pre war Kraków. This material was extracted from an article 'The Loss of Jewish Culture in Cracow' which appeared in 'W 3cia Rocznicze Zaglady Ghetta w Krakowie'(1946) and includes names of:-

Teachers in the Jewish Gymnazium and also in the Ber Jakob (Bais Yaakov?) School

Members of Poale Zion and Hitachdut and Gordonia Zionist groups

Further members of Poale Zion, a leftist Zionist group

Members of 'The Zionist Group'

Members of the leftist Bund and of the Polish Communist Party (KPP)

Members of Mizrachi and Aguda

Physicians

Lawyers (see also Sefer Kroke page316)

Painters and Sculptors, Musicians, Writers, Journalists and Scholars (see also chapter 6 of 'Who are you Mr Grymek?' by Natan Gross and additionally see 'Jewish Artists in Interwar Kraków' by Natasza Styrna in 'Polin' volume 23)

The shtetlinks site also has a menu 'Images and Documents' which includes a sub menu for books.

It is perhaps surprising that detailed lists are not readily available in connection with the Jewish Orphanage in Kraków. However a paper on that subject by Roman Rosdolsky is included in 'Polin' volume 23.

The Shoreshim Site

Reference has been made in the last chapter to the Shoreshim website which can be found at www.shoreshim.org/en/default.asp By clicking on 'databases contents' one can find a list of brief descriptions of the various data bases. The list which is displayed includes the following items for the interwar period:

The Kraków trade directories for 1929, 1935, and 1939

A voters list from 1929

Students at the Jewish School in 1934 and 1935

Donors to the 'Bet Lechem' Fund, 1924 and 1928 to 1931

A list of Jews who applied for ID Cards, 1929 to 1939

A list of Jews who, in order to emigrate, had to renounce their Polish nationality, 1939

'Kataster' records for years including the interwar period and

Donations to the Kollel Galicia

Cemeteries

Some information relating to Cemeteries is available for the interwar period, as for other periods. Of particular relevance is 'The Jewish Cemeteries of Cracow' published by the Association of Cracovians in Israel. The main part of the book lists gravestones in the Miodowa Street cemetery. For each stone which has been identified the following information is given - surname of the deceased, first name, year of death, and where available the names of the father and spouse of the deceased.

The Miodowa Street cemetery is described in the bilingual work

‘Powiększenie. Nowy Cmentarz Żydowski w Krakowie – Blowup. The New Jewish Cemetery in Kraków’ published in 2006. The main part of the book is a collection of large photographs – hence the use of the word ‘Blowup’ (or translated alternatively as ‘Enlargement’). Unfortunately very few photographs show legible inscriptions but the names of Moses Natan Feldman and Sarah Rachel Grinwald are legible on pages 69 and 121. Additionally the book includes short biographies on over fifty community leaders. Also included are two articles on the cemeteries of Kraków. One is by the joint authors Eugeniusz Duda and Anna Jodłowiec-Dziedzic. The other by Leszek Hońdo.

Further information is also available from one of Leszek Hońdo’s books, ‘Nowy Cmentarz Żydowski w Krakowie; Przewodnik’ published in January 2006.

The Miodowa Street cemetery was used throughout the interwar period and continues to be used to this day. Several commentators have pointed out, however, that from 1932 to the outbreak of the war only the social elite were buried at Miodowa Street. Two additional Jewish cemeteries were established in 1932. Both were located on the south side of the city, off the road to Wieliczka. The first was built by the community of Kraków at 3 Abraham Street, and the second by the community of the suburb of Podgorze (which later became the site of the ghetto) at 25 Jerusalem Street. Tomb stones from both these sites were taken up and used in the construction of the work camp at Płaszów. The ohel (communal hall) at the Jerusalem Street cemetery was blown up by the Germans. This building was a grand structure reflecting a strong community confident of its future. Illustrations of the building – and its destruction –

are included in 'Świat Przed Katastrofą – A World before a Catastrophe' (pages 107 and 155). The large stone and concrete blocks can still be identified on the west side of the street (the right hand walking away from Kraków) hidden in bushes opposite a rectangular block of apartments. Just two head stones can be found. One, up the hill is the stone of Chaim Jakub Abrahamer who died in 1932. This is the only original headstone which was left in situ. The second stone is close to Jerusalem Street and is a newly erected memorial to Sarah Schenirer, the founder of the Beis Yaakov educational movement.

Unfortunately, the book 'The Jewish Cemeteries in Cracow' does not list any burials from the sites at Abraham Street or Jerusalem Street. However, at page 273 the book lists thirteen Jewish burials between 1941 and 1945 at the Rakowicki Cemetery in Kraków.

An organisation The Lo Tishkach ('Do not Forget') Foundation has developed a database of general information relating to 10,000 Jewish cemeteries, including of course those at Kraków. This can be viewed at www.lo-tishkach.org Touch the 'database' tab on the home page and only then go into 'search the database'.

Researchers planning to visit the Miodowa Street Cemetery may find the following books of use. Both have been published by Avotaynu

'A Field Guide to Visiting a Jewish Cemetery' and the more comprehensive work

'A Practical Guide to Jewish Cemeteries'

The State Archives

A further source of genealogical information is, of course, the State Archives. Information about the archives in Kraków can be found by googling Archiwum Państwowe w Krakowie. In particular reference should be made to the site www.archiwum.krakow.pl. Clicking on the words 'State Archive in Cracow' gives access to the site in English. The menu on the left includes 'data bases' (bazy data in Polish) though the files contained within the data base are described in Polish and are not, of course, limited to items of Jewish interest. Further comment on the archives in Kraków will be given in the next chapter of this work which relates to the Austrian period. Suffice it to say at this stage that the archive relating to the twentieth century (and some records relating to the nineteenth) is situated at ul Grodzka 52 (telephone 12 422 19 75). The archive at that address holds a number of inter war records, including passport applications.

Further information about the holdings of The State Archives can be found at <http://rtrfoundation.org>. This is the site of the Roots Foundation Inc, established by Miriam Weiner. She is the author of 'Jewish Roots in Poland' published in conjunction with the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in 1997. Visitors to the site should go to 'Archive Database' then 'Search Archive Documents' and enter 'Krakow' to find the location of a wide range of documents.

The University Library, Kraków

A further source of information is the library at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. The website for the library is at

www.bj.uj.edu.pl An English version of the site can be obtained by clicking the Union Flag at the top right hand corner of the home page. The site gives detailed information about a wide range of databases, and the library holds address books for periods including the inter war period.

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland

A major source of information is the Jewishgen site relating to the Jewish Records Indexing - Poland which can be found at www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/ Most of the information on this site relates to the nineteenth century. However there is a link to the 1929 polish business directory. Kraków is listed on pages 323 to 495.

There is a further link relating to a project to index genealogical collections at the Jewish Historical Institute at Warsaw www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/jri-jhi.htm. One such project is to record Kraków marriage banns registers for a period between 1877 and 1939. One of the pages linked to this project enables a search of 8,843 surnames for which information has been extracted from the original records.

The jri site also includes a link to the Douglas E Goldman Jewish Genealogy Center at the Museum of Jewish Diaspora, Tel Aviv. Information relating to this source can be found more directly at www.bh.org.il/genealogy/index.aspx Clicking on 'communities' leads to the Beth Hatefutsoth communities data base.

The Central Archives for the History of Jewish People

Reference has already been made to the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People which is based at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The Polish section contains some very old original documents, but also many copies of documents which have been collected from a wide range of archives in Eastern Europe. These archives include the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

As previously noted, the Jerusalem Centre holds a number of papers relating to the B'nei B'rith movement in Kraków. The Catalogue of the Central Archives published in 2004 by Avotaynu lists the following additional documents from the inter war period.

Speeches and newspaper clippings concerning Maccabi, 1909 – 1939

Letters from the Akiva youth movement, 1937

Newspaper clippings and letters about the Hebrew Gymnasium, 1920's and 1930's

Items concerning the Jewish journalist Felicja Infeld-Stendigowa, 1895-1945

Lists of members, minutes and other papers relating to various synagogues

Correspondence and other papers relating to the administration of the community

Voting lists showing addresses and professions, 1929 and 1935

Statutes of various charitable societies, 1912 – 1937

Correspondence on the publication of the works of Prof Bałaban, 1912 -1935

The protection of Jewish monuments, 1922

The Zionist movements, WIZO and Związek Zebulon 1935 and 1938 and

A list of Jewish communities in the Kraków Region, and correspondence, 1922 - 1924

Address Books

Reference has already been made to the fact that a number of interwar address books are held at the University Library in Kraków. Another source is the site <http://kalter.org/search>

This site is described in 'Nu What's New? Vol 9 No 16, June 29 2008. The site contains a full address book for the year 1926. By way of example officers of the 'Jewish Circle' (Koło Żydowskie) are given on page 30. A full register of houses starts on page 177.

An alphabetic list of names starts on page 258.

Films

Although not strictly of genealogical value, films of the pre war Jewish Community of Kraków illustrate aspects of life which are clearly not apparent from books or even photographs. One film 'Jewish Life in Cracow' was taken in 1939. It is in Yiddish with English subtitles. It was distributed in 1999 by The National Center for Jewish Film, Brandeis University in America.. The site www.jewishfilm.org is well worth a visit.

Another film of Life in Kraków (1938/9) can be viewed at www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/mfh-films.htm and also at www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QNO-hlembc Alternatively it can be viewed through the link 'Saluting Jewish Kraków' on the Eilat Gordin Levitan site which is described at the end of the

chapter concerning the Holocaust. That site also contains links to modern films showing the recent renovation of the Kupa Synagogue and the High (Hoyche, Wysoka) Shul. Both films show pre war images.

A further film from 1939 – Market Day and Jews in Occupied Kraków can be found at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0e6kb1WoH1o&feature=related

A CD showing the Old (Stara) Synagogue is available through Muzeum Historyczne Miasta Krakowa.

The New York City Library

Arguably, any Guide to Jewish genealogy which is to have the approval of American readers must include a reference to the New York City Library. This is undoubtedly a source of great value.

A search on the library website, www.nypl.org/collections, for 'Krakow Jews' reveals over 150 books and other relevant items. Purely by way of example, in his work 'Generations', in the bibliography, George J Alexander has identified the following which can be found in relation to the interwar period :-

1921, 1932 Księgi adresowe mieszkańców Krakowa (address books of the inhabitants of Kraków

1926, 1927 Księga adresowa Polski (book of addresses in Poland), available on microfiche in the Slavic Division of the Library, and

1930 Urzędowy spis abonentów sieci telefonicznej okręgu Kraków/Katowice (telephone directory).

THE AUSTRIAN PERIOD

Historical Background

Throughout the 19th century and up to 1918 the area we now know as Poland was occupied by three imperial powers. That is to say Prussia, Russia and Austria. The Austrian sector known as Galicia extended across the southern part of Poland from Kraków in the west to Lwów (now Lviv, Ukraine) in the east. The 'Austrian period' is likely to be of great interest to many genealogists if for no other reason than it is the period during which very many ancestors emigrated from 'der heim'.

The title which has been given to this chapter is not entirely consistent with history. It has been used as a matter of convenience. In 1809, Kraków was incorporated into the Napoleonic Duchy of Warsaw, whilst between 1815 and 1946 The Free City of Kraków (also known as the Kraków Republic) enjoyed a degree of autonomy.

Several books include a brief history of Kraków under the Austrian occupation. Possibly the most readable is 'The Jews of Cracow' by Eugeniusz Duda. A more detailed account, however, can be found in Suzan F Wynne's work 'Finding your Jewish Roots in Galicia; A Resource Guide' (Avotaynu Publishers, 1988). A second edition of this work was published in 2006 under the title 'The Galitzianners. The Jews of Galicia 1772-1918'. Some fifty pages of this updated work are devoted to the history of Jewish life in Galicia. These pages include comment on the special status of Kraków, and a chronology of significant events in Galicia.

Generally, the histories which have become available in English draw on Polish works which have therefore, in some part, become available to a wider readership than previously. These works include, of course, Prof Bałaban's 'Historja Żydów w Krakowie i na Kazimierzu 1304-1868' but also the chronological successor 'Żydzi Krakowscy i ich Gmina w latach 1869-1919' by Andrzej Żbikowski.

An article in Shemot (volume 7,3), the journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, described emigration from Kraków to Manchester, England, in the mid 19th century. A fundamental question which was considered, but not necessarily answered, was why migration from Kraków began in the 1840's. In response the author wrote;

'It may be tempting to allege the prime reason was anti-Semitism in Galicia, but was anti-Semitism so bad at that time? The general conditions of the Jewish community of Cracow in the first half of the nineteenth century can be illustrated by extracts from three different authors. These all indicate that the lot of the community was not wholly bad, and certainly not as bad as in Russian occupied Poland.' The three sources which were then quoted were

Finding your Jewish Roots in Galicia by Susan E Wynne, published by Avotaynu 1988 p3

The Jewish Community in Poland by Isaac Lewin, 1985 pp 162-174 and

Krakowskie Judaica by Eugeniusz Duda, Warsaw, 1991 Pp 135-6

The third source was published partly in English but mainly in Polish. Fortunately it has been followed by a work wholly in English by the same author. This is 'The Jews of Cracow' published by Wydawnictwo 'Hagada' and Argona Jarden Jewish Bookshop. This work includes an account of the Jewish community in the 19th century and an article on the Polonisation of the community in the second half of the century.

The article in Shemot which has been mentioned offered the view that the railways must be regarded as an important facilitator of migration, if not a cause of it.

Detailed genealogical research of Kraków - and particularly the Jewish area of Kazimierz is assisted by the number of maps and plans which are available but at the same time hindered by various changes which took place in the nineteenth century to the numbering of houses and the naming of streets. It is therefore appropriate to consider both of these subjects.

Maps and Plans

Two features of the Jewish community can be readily seen from even a brief examination of maps of Kraków in the 19th century. These are, firstly, the small size of the geographical area in which the community lived, and secondly, the physical isolation of the community.

As noted elsewhere in this work, there are several branches of the National Archives in Kraków. The branch which houses old maps and plans is located at 31-503, Kraków, ul Lubicz 25 (tel 12 421 42 19) on the east side of the city. However, as some of the following examples demonstrate, various maps and plans

can be seen without a visit to the city.

The British Library in London (and no doubt others) holds copies of various books containing old maps of Kraków. These include *Katalog dawnych map wielkoskalowych Krakowa XVI-XIX wieko* by Michał Odlanicki-Poczobutt. This work includes a set of large scale plans of the Kazimierz district from the period 1802 to 1808. It is immediately apparent from these plans that the area of population was mainly restricted to just a few blocks of buildings which were surrounded by fields. One plan clearly shows that the 'new' cemetery which is now on Miodowa Street was separated from the area of housing by fields.

Another early 19th century plan can be found at the front of volume two of the leading work *Historja Żydów w Krakowie i na Kazimierzu 1304-1868* by Professor Majer Bałaban. This map shows the numbers of houses in the district which correspond to several documents of genealogical interest, including the censuses of 1790 and 1795.

A similar plan showing house numbers in the early part of the 19th century can be found at www.jewishgen.org/shtetlinks/krakow/kaz_houses.htm

One of the plans held at the Lubicz Street Archives is Plan Miasta Kazimierz from 1815. This clearly shows two features. The first is the separation of the Jewish quarter to the east of Ul Krakowska from the rather less crowded Christian quarter to the west. The second feature is a branch of the River Vistula sweeping round Kazimierz to the north and the east. Further features are remnants of the old city wall which in earlier days had been an additional physical barrier around Kazimierz. The

1815 map shows the 'new' Jewish cemetery still some distance from the housing area separated by a farm or manor house. This is marked as a 'Daywor' which gave its name to the street now called ul Dajwor on which the Museum of Galicia is located.

Those visiting the National Museum shop on the main market square may still be able to buy a copy of a map of Kraków dated 1836. By this time the town of Kazimierz had been incorporated into the city of Kraków. However the area of housing was still limited and the cemetery was still separated from the town proper by fields and the manor house. Furthermore the whole Kazimierz area still remained surrounded on three sides by the river, connected to Stradom and other parts of Kraków by just two bridges.

It was not until the 1870's that the civic authorities filled in the Vistula to the north and east of Kazimierz, forming what are now ul Dietla (to the north) and ul Starawisła (to the east). Two plans relating to this engineering work can be found in 'Ulice I Place Krakowskiego Kazimierza' by Bogusław Krasnowolski (published in Kraków in 1992 by 'Universitas') This work includes nearly a hundred photographs and plans of streets covering some five centuries but featuring largely the 19th and 20th centuries. One plan, that of Meisels Street in 1913 shows the names of various families living, or owning properties, in the area. This raises the possibility that other plans which remain in the archives may refer to specific families. The book also includes (unfortunately only in Polish) detailed descriptions of the urban development of many streets in Kazimierz and Stradom.

A further account of the urban development of Kazimierz and

the surrounding area is to be found in 'Forgotten Heritage. The Architecture of Jewish Kraków' This is a chapter in the bilingual work Świat przed Katastrofą (A World before a Catastrophe).

A broader perspective of the sites of old Kraków, rather than Kazimierz in particular, is to be found in the work Kraków na starej fotografii which was compiled by Wanda Mossakowska and Anna Zeńczak.

The numbering of houses and street directories

Obtaining information about where one's ancestors lived is helped by the system of house numbers which was introduced shortly after the Austrian occupation. On the other hand the work of genealogists is made more difficult by the various changes to that system, and changes to the names of streets, during the 19th century.

Probably the earliest plan showing house numbers is to be found at the front of the second volume of Prof Majer Bałaban's work 'Historja Żydów w Krakowie i na Kazimierzu 1304-1868'. The plan from the beginning of the 19th century shows a few blocks of houses, largely surrounded by the walls of the town of Kazimierz. The numbering of the houses goes up to little more than 200. This suggests that the Jewish area had hardly grown in the previous 40 years or so (chapter 25 of Prof Bałaban's book). It is clear from the censuses of the late 18th century that each house was occupied by several families and that conditions were therefore extremely crowded.

At this stage mention should be made of a catalogue which is held at the State Archives at ul Sienna. That is Marian

Friedberg's work 'Inwentarz archiwum miasta Kazimierza pod Krakowem, 1335-1802'. As the title implies, this work lists a large number of sources of information relating to the town of Kazimierz. On the other hand, despite the dates in the title, the catalogue refers to various 19th century sources. The work is listed amongst the holdings of the Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons).

One of the documents held at the Archives in ul Sienna is a register (Wykaz) from 1821 listing houses and house owners in District X of Kraków, part of the Jewish area. The Archive references for this list are K804 and J10438.

A reorganisation of house numbers in Kazimierz took place following a fire in about 1850. Details can be found in a book which is also held at the Archives at ul Sienna. The book lists changes in both German and Polish. It is titled Uebersicht der neuen Eintheilung und Gebaude-Nummerirung der Landes-Hauptstadt Krakau (Przegląd nowego podziału i oliczbowania domow w glownem miescie krajowem Krakowie) published in 1858. This address book lists a large number of 'Jewish' names but only one name per property. It is not clear whether this is the name of the owner, or the head of the family which is the principal tenant. Clearly, however, the book does not list all the inhabitants of Kazimierz

It is understood that further changes to the address system took place in about 1890. Certainly, an address book for 1892 can be found at <http://kalter.org/search>. From the home page the visitor should enter 'Krakow' in the field marked 'Any place' and 'D-M Soundex' in the 'Regular Match' field. A 'search' on 'Directories' leads to the address book for 1892 (as well as one

for 1926). The district of Kazimierz is to be found on pages 39 to 52. Unlike the 1858 directory, more than one name is stated for some properties.

Correspondence on the 'Gesher Galicia' Special Interest Group (SIG) Digest (Galicia@lyris.jewishgen.org) on 15 April 2010 revealed that the address book for 1892 can also be found at <http://genealogyindexer.org/directories> Also searchable on that site are address and business directories for Kraków and the district of Podgorze for the years 1907 and 1910.

What is clear, therefore, is that care needs to be taken when visiting current day Kraków if one is to identify correctly the locations where one's ancestors lived. This can be illustrated by the following examples which relate to the author's own family

The address 23 ul Krakowskie in the 1850 census is now number 56

307 ul Waskiej in the 1850 census is now number 9 and

135 ul Ubogich in the 1870 census is now 11 Warszawera Street.

The Jewish Records Indexing -Poland – database

A major source of information relating to Jewish genealogy in Poland is the Jewish Records - Poland searchable database. Launched in early 1995, this is the largest fully searchable database of Jewish vital records accessible on line. More than 3.5 million records from 500 Polish towns are now indexed and more are being added every few months. The home page can be found at www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/

Clicking on 'your town' leads to a town index. This is the main entry point and index page for information relating to each town in the database. Listed under the town index for Kraków are contacts for the following projects:

The Kraków Archive project

The JHI (Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw) Archives project, marriage and banns registers and

The shtetl co-op.

There are then listed various sources of records from the archives of the Latter Day Saints, the Polish State, and the Jewish Historical Institute.

The page which follows from 'search database' lists a number of search options, and hints and strategies, using the search parameters. The database has the advantage of using a phonetic code so that a search will reveal information even where there are various ways of spelling a name, as is usually the case.

By way of example, a search for the name Weiskertz reveals the following information;

Cemetery records

Surname and given name, section, row and grave number, and page number of record,

JHI marriages

Surname, given name, year, akt, fond, father's given name, mother's given name, mother's surname

Births

Surname, given name, year, akt, film, father's given name, mother's given name, mother's maiden name,

Deaths

Surname, given name, year, akt, film, index, status, father's given name, mother's given name

Marriages

Surname, given name, year, akt, film, father of spouse, mother, mother's father, comments, age, date and (for early marriages) house number.

A description of this database and its origins can be found in Susan Fifer's 'A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Poland'. This is one of several guides published by The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. The website of the Society is at www.jgsgb.org.uk

Ms Fifer suggests the following tips when using the database.

- 1) Assume that the name you are researching might have been spelled a number of different ways.
- 2) Even if you don't find anything one day, keep going back to check on records which have been added
- 3) If you know the geographical co-ordinates of your town, you can enter these and ask the data base to search other records within a specified radius of that town.

Unfortunately the data base suffers from the fact that vital records are not available, and have therefore not been microfilmed by the Latter Day Saints, for a period from the late 1850's up to the 1870's. Nevertheless several researchers have recorded their successes using the database. For example, writing in 'Shemot' (the journal of The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain) in June 2002, Gisela Eisner gave a detailed account of her research into the Pufeles family of Kraków. Similarly, a review of the Barder family of Kraków is

to be found in the June 2006 issue of 'Shemot'.

Other databases on the Jewishgen site

The Jewishgen site also includes the 'Jewishgen Poland database'. This lists records from a variety of sources including vital records, business directories, voter lists, passenger manifests, Yizkor (Memorial) books, and other Holocaust sources.

The Jewishgen Family Finder is a powerful tool which can be found at www.jewishgen.org/jgff/. Searching for the town of Kraków without inserting any family name gives a total of about 2,600 hits referring to nearly 1,500 researchers. The database gives contact details of each researcher who is interested in a given surname. As would be expected, the database can be searched by reference to surname, and variations of basic searches using exact spelling, 'starts with', 'contains', and 'sounds like' matching.

Another database is 'The Family Tree of the Jewish People' which can be found at www.jewishgen.org/gedcom/. This database is a co-operative project between Jewishgen, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, and the Nahum Goldman Museum of the Jewish Diaspora (Beit Hatefutot). It is described as a searchable compilation of family trees.

The home page of the Jewishgen site has a section headed 'Discussion Groups'. This has a sub section for Special Interest Group mailing lists. Researchers into Kraków genealogy should subscribe to the Gesher Galicia SIG which can be accessed

directly at www.jewishgen.org/galicia/.

The 'Projects and Activities' section of the Jewishgen home page has a sub heading 'Family Links'. Entering the word 'Krakow' in the search box produces nine records of individuals searching families from that city. Entering the word 'Cracow' in the search box produces a further three records. This illustrates the need for genealogists to keep an open mind to different spellings of place names, as well as given names and surnames. Variations may well have to take into account the fact that places in Galicia may have had Germanic and Yiddish names as well as Polish ones. Accordingly Cracow was also known as Krakow, Krakau, and Kroke. And the Jewish area of Kazimierz was called Kuzmir in Yiddish.

The shtetlinks Jewishgen website for Kraków

Reference has been made in a previous chapter to the website www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/. The 'what's new' button lists information which has been added to the site from October 2002 up to August 2005. Prior to October 2002, a great deal of information had been posted on the shtetlinks site listing detailed information about births, deaths and marriages in the 19th century. Much of this information has now been transferred to other sites, particularly the Shoreshim and Dan Hirschberg sites.

The shtetlinks site gives a limited amount of data from a data base known as the 'Kataster'. This is a registration of all residents in Kraków which was carried out for the period between approximately 1850 and 1945. It is described as being similar to a census but was carried out continuously, with

corrections and updates being made periodically. The records are stated to include not only information relating to births, marriages and deaths, but also professions, addresses, birth places, places of marriage and many other comments. Whilst general information relating to this data base remains on the shtetlinks site, the detailed data base is at www.shoreshim.org. Indeed the shoreshim site appears to have largely replaced the shtetlinks site.

An item posted to the www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Krakow/ site in June 2003 refers to a new project to gather all arrivals from Kraków at Ellis Island, New York. This item has a link to the Ellis Island search engine which can also be reached through the Steven Morse website (<http://stevemorse.org>) Information about the Ellis Island data base gives advice which relates to research generally. That is to say one should try different spellings of a town name, such as Cracow, Krakow, Krakau and Kroke.

Other items posted to the shtetlinks site in June 2003 include information relating to the Israeli Chief Rabbi Lau and a collection of documents belonging to Rabbi Simche Alter Fraenkel Teumim, Chief Rabbi of Kraków and Skawina in the early 20th century.

A further posting is a list of shareholders from Kraków in The Jewish Colonial Trust, the parent company of The Anglo Palestine Bank which was itself the predecessor of Bank Leumi.

The shtetlinks site records that Prof Bałaban's book was published in Ivrit in 2003. The title is 'Toldot ha'Yehudim b'Krakov uve Kazimierz 1304 – 1868'. The website posting in

May 2003 gives information about Professor Bałaban as well as the book itself.

The miscellaneous lists sub menu of the shtetlinks site includes a list of people, many of whom were from Kraków, who sent telegrams to the wedding of Jacques Mahler and Anja Margulies in Berlin in 1908.

The shtetlinks site confirmed in February and March 2003 that the data bases were being moved to the main Jewishgen site and also to the Shoreshim server.

The shtetlinks site gives a link to the Kraków area research forum. This is an informal grouping of researchers with a specific interest in Kraków Jewish genealogy. The website address of the forum is www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/krakow/krakow_research_group.htm. There is not a lot of 'traffic' on this site but past enquiries can be viewed by browsing the mailing list.

The Shoreshim site

Reference has been made in previous chapters and also in this chapter to the Shoreshim website which can be found at www.shoreshim.org/en/default.asp. This site includes a database which is searchable by family or last name (with spelling variations or part spelling). On the face of it, however, it does not appear possible to browse the data base for general information or research. The database includes the following lists for the period of Austrian occupation:

Kraków births and deaths, 1798 to 1888, 1900 to 1912, and

1917 to 1918

Marriage records including marriage banns and the records of the Progressive Synagogue

Tombstones and tombstone images in the Kraków Cemetery

The 1907 Kraków Directory

The 1911 voters list

Kraków Jewish businesses, 1914 to 1919

Voters list for the Kupa Shul, 1905

Wysoka Shul members, 1887

Donations to Kupa Zeduku, 1888 to 1891

Various donor lists, 1891, 1892, and 1897

'Kataster' records for the period after 1850, and

A list of telegrams relating to a marriage in 1908.

A great deal of information is available from the data bases free of charge. However, more detailed information is available to members only, at a modest annual cost.

A major force, and possibly the major force behind the Shoreshim site is Mr. Julian Schamroth, author of an extensive genealogical work 'These are the Generations – The Schamroths from Krakow'.

Dan Hirschberg's Site

An enormous amount of research has resulted in Dan Hirschberg's site being a major resource for the 18th and 19th Centuries. The site can be found at www.ics.uci.edu/~dan/genealogy/krakow/

An important feature of the site is a searchable database of birth death and marriage records covering the period from the end of

the eighteenth century up to the 1940's. The early data includes:-

Births, 1798 to 1809

Marriages, 1798 to 1808 and

A list of homeowners from 1807.

Included in 'other documents' are the following

Kraków students who successfully completed second years
1868, 1869 and 1871

The military draft for Kraków, 1849 -1850

Tombstone inscriptions in the Miodowa cemetery

The contents of Latter Day Saints micro films

Summaries of Jewish populations in Kraków

The 1891 Galicia Business Directory

And a link to the Kraków shtetl site.

Cemeteries

Previous chapters of this work have included references to 'The Jewish Cemeteries of Cracow' which has been published by the Association of Cracovians in Israel. Reference has also been made to 'Blow Up. The New Jewish Cemetery in Kraków' published in 2006. This work includes short biographies of over fifty communal leaders spanning the 19th and 20th centuries. Furthermore, as noted above, the Shoreshim website includes data on tombstones in the Kraków cemetery. That is to say the 'main' burial ground on Miodowa Street. These sources include information about burials from about the middle of the 19th century.

A list relating to the Miodowa Cemetery can also be found on Dan Hirschberg's site. Searching on 'other Jewish Cracow documents reveals a list of tombstone inscriptions which looks similar to but is not the same as the book published by the Association of Cracovians in Israel.

A visit to the Jewish communal office in 1996 revealed that an original record book relating to the Miodowa Street cemetery had survived the second world war, having been hidden in a milk churn. This book is arranged in approximate alphabetical order. It shows the year of each burial and the location of each gravestone. Unfortunately, in practice, it is difficult actually to find specific nineteenth century stones in the cemetery since many of those stones are now in poor condition. Visitors to the burial ground may nevertheless find an Avotaynu book to be of use. That is 'A Field Guide to Visiting a Jewish Cemetery' by Rabbi Joshua L Segal. A book covering similar ground is 'A Guide to Reading Hebrew Inscriptions and Documents' written by Rosemary Wenzel, and published by The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain.

A useful reference book is *Katalog Zabytków Sztuki w Polsce* (A Catalogue of Art Monuments in Poland), volume IV, part VI. This relates to the Kazimierz and Stradom districts of Kraków. This was published in 1995 by the Polish Academy of Sciences. The work is very largely devoted to the Remu and Miodowa Street cemeteries. Although much of the book is written in Polish, it contains a large number of photographs of tombstones, and an alphabetic list of the names of the deceased.

Although the Miodowa Street cemetery was opened in, or shortly after 1800, the old Remu site continued to be used into

the twentieth century. Genealogists will be lucky to find graves of their ancestors in the Remu site. Nevertheless a great deal has been written about that burial ground. A particularly detailed work, which includes a name index, is 'Stary Żydowski Cmentarz w Krakowie' written by Leszek Hońdo and published in 1999 by Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego.

Data is constantly being added to the Jewishgen Burial Registry (JOWBR) project. This can be accessed via www.jewishgen.org and then going to databases. The database lists (with effect from July 2009) over six thousand burials from the Miodowa Cemetery.

Podgórze

A review of the Jewish community of Kraków should include the southern district of Podgórze. Arguably, this area is best known as the site of the ghetto during the Holocaust. It should be remembered, however, that a Jewish community was established there towards the end of the 19th century. 'A History of the Jewish Community of Podgórze' is the title of a chapter in volume 23 of 'Polin'. In her work, the author, Barbara Zbroja, draws information from 'The Jewish Community in Podgórze' published by The Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

The Podgórze community opened a cemetery in 1888. This was one of two adjacent cemeteries on ul. Jerozolimska which became subsumed by the Płaszów concentration camp. It is not clear whether the birth or death records, or the burial records, of the community have survived. However, the Jewish Records Indexing (JRI) on line data base includes the following marriage records for Podgórze for various years between 1877 and 1939.

Jewish Historical Institute marriages, and marriage banns and Progressive marriages and marriage bans.

The State Archives

Following the order set out in the previous chapter, the next source of information to be considered is the State Archives in Kraków. Of particular interest in relation to the period of Austrian occupation is that branch of the Archives situated at ul. Sienna, 16, 30-960 Kraków. The website of the Archive can be found at www.archiwum.krakow.pl However, using the link via www.shoreshim.org leads to the English translation of the Archive website.

General advice on arranging a visit to Poland is given in a wide range of publications, including 'A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Poland' written by Susan Fifer and published by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. The recurring theme in such guidance is the need to plan in some detail well in advance of one's visit. For example it is surprisingly easy initially to plan a visit which clashes with a public holiday when the Archives are closed.

There is no doubt that over the last fifteen years or so Archivists have become more accommodating to overseas visitors. Somewhat arrogantly, we expect most foreigners to speak reasonably good English. However, it cannot be assumed that archivists in Kraków, and presumably other Polish towns and cities, have more than a basic understanding of the English language. It is therefore strongly advisable to attend Archives together with a local contact who can act as interpreter. A local contact can also serve a second practical purpose which is to

collect copies of documents after the visit. This is because copy documents may not be available on the day of a visit, depending on the nature and size of the originals which are to be copied.

At least one genealogist has persuaded a hotel receptionist to accompany him to the State Archives. A more conventional approach is to use one of several commercial enterprises which offer the required services. One such business is the Jarden bookshop at ul Szeroka, 2 (www.jarden.pl)

As might be expected, the Archives at ul Sienna hold births marriages and deaths records for the 19th century, except for certain periods for which the records have been lost or destroyed. In practice, however, these records can be more easily searched on the site www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/ rather than at the Archives themselves. On the other hand one important source of information which has apparently not yet been transferred to a Jewishgen or similar site is the censuses, or more precisely the spis mieszkanco (lists of residents) which were prepared in various dates. The documents are not easy to read, particularly as they are written in old style German handwriting. However, by way of example, a census in the 1840's shows for each house number, and for each person, a year of birth and an occupation. The census at 31 December 1869 shows additionally the religion, the position or relationship within the family, and town of birth for each person. Reference is made later in this chapter to the International Review of Jewish Genealogy, 'Avotaynu'. Unfortunately the journal does not include many articles relating specifically to Kraków genealogy. However one such article appeared in the summer of 1996. This was 'Census Records and City Directories in the Krakow Archives' by Fay Vogel Bussgang. The article makes

useful reading for anyone planning to carry out genealogical research in the city.

Volume 23 of Polin, page 68, shows that censuses were held in 1815 (upon the creation of The Free City of Kraków) and on the following dates.

1 June 1818, 1824, 1834 and 1844

31 October 1847, 1850 and 1857 and

31 December 1869, 1890 and 1900.

The census for 31 December 1869 (often referred to as the 1870 census) has been microfilmed by the Mormon Church, and is particularly easy to read. Further information can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/2dhfl7u>. This shows that the film numbers for district 8 are FHL INTL films 2332844 to 2332852, the last film apparently being an alphabetic index. Films from the Mormon Church can be ordered on <https://film.familysearch.org>

The range of material held at ul. Sienna is extremely wide and a full description would be well beyond the scope of this work. It is, however, worth referring again to the catalogue compiled by Marian Friedberg 'Inwentarz Archiwum Miasta Kazimierza pod Krakowem 1335 – 1802', a copy of which is, of course held at the Archives. It is also worth mentioning again the documents relating to the changes in the numbering of houses during the 19th century which have been described earlier in this chapter.

Reference should also be made to various business and city directories which are available at the Archives for various years between 1892 and 1910. These directories and others for the interwar period are listed in the article by Fay Vogel Busgang which has already been mentioned, as well as having been noted

earlier in this chapter.

An enormous amount of work listing the holdings of State Archives in Poland was carried out by Miriam Weiner. 1977 saw the publication of her work 'Jewish Roots in Poland – Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories'. More recently, as might be expected, her work is to be found on the internet. The starting point is <http://rtrfoundation.org>. To search for records for a particular town click on 'Archive Database' on the home page and the 'Archive Documents'. The site lists the following types of documents which are held at The State Archive in Kraków.

School records 1801 – 1933

Tax lists 1796-1809, 1815 – 1853

Divorce records 1811-1816, 1818, 1820 – 1852

Occupation lists 1550-1860, 1796 -1808 (Jewish door keepers)

Birth, death and marriage records

Censuses

Voter lists

Local government records and

Address books 1892, 1905, 1908 and 1909.

The site also records that property tax lists for Kraków 1813 – 1939 are held at the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine in Lviv.

Unfortunately, passports are not generally included on the listings and other sources which have been mentioned. It appears that two types of passports or travel documents may have been issued by the Austrian authorities. One was to enable the bearer to travel abroad – Für das Ausland.

However, according to an enquiry posted to the Gesher Galicia SIG digest in February 2011, the authorities also issued 'internal passports'. It is assumed that records of both types are held at the State Archives.

The Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw

Miriam Weiner's website <http://rtrfoundation.org> also lists various records relating to the Kraków community which are held at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. These include (in relation to the Austrian period):-

Records of the Kahal (community)

Voters lists

School records

Tax lists

Records of the Jewish Hospital

Local Government Records

Birth Marriage and Death records

Censuses and

Military Records

The website of the Jewish Historical Institute is to be found at www.jewishinstitute.org.pl/en/home/index/0.html

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People

As previously noted, the Central Archives are based at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and contain documents which have been drawn from a wide range of archives throughout eastern Europe. A full description of the contents of the Central Archives is beyond the scope of this work. However the Archive Catalogue, published by Avotaynu in 2004, refers to the

following items, which are listed by way of example.

Minutes of various community departments, 1843 and 1899 – 1912

A register of Kazimierz community properties, 1861

Minutes and correspondence and inventories of the community board for various years

Files on the Kazimierz community budget and taxes

A list of kosher meat taxpayers, 1858-9

A register of community member incomes, 1897

Community elections – minutes and lists of voters, 1874 – 1900

The Jewish Hospital, 1866 – 1872

A list of the needy, 1890 – 1893

Lists of students at Jewish Schools, 1874 – 1878 and 1889 – 1893

Minutes and correspondence relating to various Zionist organizations

Lists of Jewish communities and their inhabitants in the Kraków district, 1879 and 1895

And also

Birth and death registers, 1788 – 1855 and

Banns, marriages and divorce registers, 1798 – 1842.

Additionally, the Archive holds a number of historically important documents which may be of general background interest to genealogists.

The Works of Majer Bałaban

An account of information relating to the Jewish community of Kraków would be incomplete without some description of the works of the historian, Prof Majer Bałaban. This author wrote many books which refer to sources which have since become

lost, books relating to Galicia generally and to Kraków in particular. As might be expected copies of many of Prof. Bałaban's works can be found in the State Archives in ul Sienna. The three main works are:-

Dzieje Żydów w Galicji i Rzeczypospolitej Krakowskiej, 1771 – 1868, (History of the Jews of Galicia and the Kraków Republic) published in Lwów, (Lemberg) 1914

Dzieje Żydów w Krakowie i na Kazimierzu, 1304 – 1868 (Kraków, 1912) and

Historia Żydów w Krakowie i na Kazimierzu, 1304 – 1868 (Kraków, 1931)

In recent years the second and third of these works have been reprinted in Polish, with the third work being translated into Ivrit. (Toldot ha'Yehudim b'Krakov uve Kazimierz 1304-1868). Unfortunately, none of the three titles has yet been translated into English. However the 1931 publication is nevertheless of interest to English speaking genealogists (and others) for the following reasons.

Firstly the work includes a detailed name index so that a person researching a particular family can go directly to the part of the text that needs to be translated.

Secondly, the book contains a useful map from the beginning of the nineteenth century, as well as a number of old photographs and drawings

Thirdly, the two volume work contains no fewer than twenty two family trees in volume one and fifteen further family charts in volume two. Most of the charts relate to periods prior to the Austrian occupation but trees listing the following families in particular do extend into the nineteenth century:

The Kalahora, Bornstein, Landau, Gumpłowicz and Schreiber families

Additionally, volume two includes photographs of members of these families and a number of local rabbis.

Avotaynu

Reference has already been made to a number of books published by Avotaynu, and there has also been a passing mention of the International Review of Jewish Genealogy which is published periodically by that organization. Past issues of the Journal for the period 1985 to 2008 can be purchased on a single CD-Rom which has a word search facility. As would be expected this facility reveals many references to Cracow and Krakow, although most are merely passing references. Many of the earlier articles are now mainly of historical interest since they have been outdated by events such as the fall of the Iron Curtain and the development of the internet. Of course both of these developments have transformed Jewish genealogy in Eastern Europe. One such article is 'Breakthrough in Access to Polish-Jewish Records' in the winter 1988 edition.

The summer 1989 edition includes an account of The Jewish Historical Institute in Poland, and in Summer 1992 there was an account of Demographic Records of Galicia by Suzan Wynne. This article was possibly the origin of the extensive work by the same author 'Finding Your Jewish Roots in Galicia; A Resource Guide' which was published by Avotaynu in 1998. An extensive review of that work by Bill Gladstone is to be found in a 1998 issue of the Avotaynu Journal. Unfortunately the Avotaynu Journal includes very few items relating specifically to Kraków. However two such articles are:-

‘Census Records and City Directories in the Kraków Archives’ by Fay Vogel Bussgang (1996) and

‘How I Found a New Ancestor in Kraków, Poland’ by George Alexander. (1998).

This second article refers to several families, including the Gumpłowicz family which is mentioned on several occasions in Prof Bałaban’s book on Kraków.

Whilst on the subject of Avotaynu, mention should be made of the e-mail magazine of Jewish Genealogy which is published by that organization called ‘Nu? What’s New?’. Like the Journal, the e-zine covers a very wide range of topics, mostly unrelated to Kraków. However it can be obtained at a very modest charge via www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm

Back copies can be printed from this site and it is also possible to carry out word searches such as Cracow and Kraków.

Gesher Galicia

A further source of information is ‘Gesher Galicia’ which is the special interest group for Galician Jewish genealogy. The home page for this group is to be found at www.jewishgen.org/galicia/

Considering the importance of Kraków as the administrative centre of Western Galicia, the site contains perhaps less information specifically about that city than one might expect. Having said that, the site includes links to various sources of general interest, for example Suzan Wynne’s book ‘The Galicianers: The Jews of Galicia, 1772 to 1918’ published by Wheatmark in 2006. The Gesher Galicia site also includes a

useful link to various data bases.

Gesher Galicia publishes a quarterly journal, 'The Galitzianer'. The tables of contents of volumes 1 to 11 (1993 to 2003) are shown on the website. The issue published in Winter 1999 was devoted largely to Cracow and included the following articles:-

Cracow during the Holocaust – a Bibliography

My Cracow Family

My trip to Cracow

Cracow Jewish Records – additional sources

Cracow Records On Line

Cracow and Lvov Ghetto Lists

Other issues of the journal have included the following:-

Fall 1994 - Cracow

Winter 1994 - The New Cracow Friendship Society

Spring 1995 - Polish Researcher from Cracow

Winter 1995 - Judaic Studies in Cracow

Summer 1997 - Documents about Cracow Jews 18th and 19th centuries

Fall 1997 - Additional References re Cracow

Spring 1998 - Cracow Shtetl Co-op Initiative – now on line

Spring 1999 - Town updates - Cracow

Spring 2000 - Cracow Ghetto Register

Fall 2000 - Judaica Foundation, Cracow

August 2001 - Cracow Marriage and Banns Registers

August 2001 - Matching Patronymics to Surnames in Cracow

November 2001 - Crying in Cracow – a Visit to the 'New' Cemetery

February 2002 - Cracow Marriage Banns Indexing and Other

Matters

February 2003 - The Wohls of Cracow

Turning to more recent issues, the publication in August 2005 included an article, 'Conversion of Jewish Women in the Convent of Felician Sisters in Cracow from 1873 to 1914'. (A further article on female conversion in Kraków is to be found in volume 18 of Polin.) This was followed in the November 2009 issue of The Galitzianer by 'Search Overload – When Researching the Jews of Kraków, Poland'.

Family Histories

Increasingly it seems to be the aim of genealogists to publish their research and this has become increasingly feasible with new technology which has reduced costs. One such publication is 'These are the Generations – The Schamroths from Krakow' by Julian Schamroth. The author of that work was a, or the, leading force behind the Shoreshim website which has already been mentioned. His addresses are PO Box 327, Kiryat Yearim, Israel 90840 and jscham@zahav.net.il

'These are the Generations' covers a wide period, from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. It is, naturally, of use to members of the extended Schamroth family and includes an alphabetic names index. However the work is also of interest to the wider genealogical community because it describes a broad range of sources of information.

A work which in many ways is similar is 'Generations – A Millennium of Jewish History in Poland from the Earliest Times to the Holocaust told by a Survivor from an Old Krakow

Family'. This is the detailed work of George J Alexander and was published by the Congress for Jewish Culture, New York, in 2008. In his opening chapters the author draws from Majer Bałaban's work 'Historja Żydów w Krakowie i na Kazimierzu 1304 – 1868'.

Three articles by Mr. Alexander can be found at www.jewishgen.org/shtetlinks/poland/krakow/images/essays

These are

Searching for Roots in Krakow, Poland, an essay

Krakow Buildings, Alaksandrowicz Residences 1802 – 1939
and

Krakow Jews around 1800 – A Web of Relationships

B'nei B'rith

Reference has been made in Chapter 5 of this Guide to the humanitarian group, B'nei B'rith. The Kraków Lodge of that Order was established in 1892.

A list of Lodge Officers from 1895 to 1918 can be found at www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Krakow/kra_bnei_brith_officers.htm.

The role and development of the Kraków 'Solidarność' Lodge are considered in an article which appears in 'A World Before a Catastrophe'. This is a piece written by Łukasz Tomasz Sroka called 'Did Kraków have a Jewish Elite?' This article itself is taken from the work 'Żydzi w Krakowie Studium o Elicie Miasta (Jews in Kraków Study of the Elite of the City) 1850-1918' (Scientific Publishers, Pedagogical University, 2008).

The Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies

The Institute for Polish Jewish Studies is based at Oxford. It was established in 1984 and is devoted to the history and culture of Polish Jewry. The Institute publishes a journal, *Polin*, which contains scholarly papers under the editorship of Prof Antony Polonsky of Brandeis University. Volume 12 (1999) was devoted to the subject 'Galicia; Jews Poles and Ukrainians, 1772 – 1918'.

Volume 23 of *Polin* was published in November 2010 and was concerned with 'Jews in Kraków since 1772'. The volume included the following works in relation to the period up to 1918 written by various learned scholars:-

Jewish Primary and Secondary School Education in the Free City of Kraków (1815 – 1846)

Changes in the Jewish Community of Kraków in Autonomous Galicia

Ambiguities of Assimilation: The Kraków Conservatives and the Jews

The History of the Jewish Community of Podgórze

The Kraków Association of Progressive Jews 1864 – 1874

The Impact of New Ideologies: The Transformation of Kraków Jewry between 1895 and 1914

Orthodox Jewry in Kraków at the End of the Nineteenth Century

The Polonization of Jews: Some examples from Kraków, and Between Politics and Spirituality: The Case of Dr. Oziasz Thon (1870 – 1936), Reform Rabbi of Kraków.

The chapter on Education in The Free City of Kraków is written by Anna Jakimyszyn who points out that various groups of

records are available to researchers. It is uncertain from the chapter whether these give general information, and summaries, or whether at least some give the names of individual pupils. The source documents seem to be in three main groups.

At the Archiwum Państwowe Kraków (APKr) under the heading Szkoły, and grouped by years (e.g. 1815-1835)

At the University (AUJ) under the heading Szkoły Żydowskie, and

Wolnym Mięście Krakowie (WMK) (The Free City of Kraków)

THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Historical Background

A very readable history of the Kraków area is to be found in 'The Jews of Cracow' by Eugeniusz Duda. In that work the author refers to the first partition of Poland stating that in 1772 the Austrian army entered Kraków and all of a sudden the city found itself outside the borders of Poland. He goes on 'The Austrians decided that the riverbed (which was to be the border) was the Old Vistula in the area of the present Ulica Dietla. Thus they took over the whole of Kazimierz as far as the Stradom bridge. It took four years to explain the 'mistake' and eventually the Austrian army left Kazimierz. However twenty years later, in 1796, as a result of the third partition of Poland not only Kazimierz but also Cracow became part of the Austrian occupation zone.' In this way the majority of Jewish inhabitants of the area moved in and out of Austrian rule and back into it again during the latter part of the 18th century.

The book by Eugeniusz Duda is one of many which have been written in recent years about the Jewish community in Kraków. An earlier work by the same author was published mainly in Polish but partly in English. That was 'Kralowskie Judaica' (1991). Another work published at about the same time was the bilingual work 'Jewish Monuments of Krakow's Kazimierz – A Short Guide' by Michał Rożek. In that work the author refers to 40 Jozef Street (ul. Jozefa) which was the home of the community scribe, Pinchas Szijowicz, in the period 1770 to 1790. Unfortunately, states Mr Rożek, the property was destroyed by fire in 1773 and many valuable documents were destroyed. This is consistent with the fact that during the 18th

century most inhabitants lived in crowded wooden houses. Nevertheless, despite the fires which frequently occurred, several records survived as will be described in this chapter.

A further and very readable source of information is Chapter 9 of George J Alexander's book 'Generations'. This is titled 'Decline of the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth (1648 – 1796)'. A wider perspective can be obtained from a book by Gershon David Hundert 'Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the Eighteenth Century – A Genealogy of Modernity', published by University of California Press.

An article 'Jews in Cracow at the time of the Confederacy Bar (1768-72) originally by Prof Bałaban can be found on Dan Hirschberg's site (mentioned below and in an earlier chapter) at www.ics.uci.edu/~dan/genealogy/krakow/other/bal.htm . This article describes the difficult living conditions of the Jewish community during a particularly turbulent period.

Another record of historical interest can be found on the 'other documents' section of Dan Hirschberg's site. This is a list of names of Jews from Kraków who travelled to Leipzig for fairs in the 1700's. Most of the entries relate to the middle of the eighteenth century. A difficulty with this document, as with most others of the period, is that individuals were known by a first name and a patronym, for example Joachim son of Abraham, rather than by a surname.

Generally, Jews did not use family or surnames in the 18th Century. A Decree was issued in 1787 by Emperor Joseph II requiring the adoption of surnames. An English translation of the Decree is to be found on the Shoreshim site (Home – Info –

1787 Decree). In practice however surnames did not become common in Kraków until about 1805. A detailed study of this subject is to be found in 'A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia' by Alexander Beider (Avotaynu Publishers).

Maps and plans

An insight into the life of the Kraków (or more precisely Kazimierz) Jewish community in the eighteenth century can be obtained from the maps and plans of the area. Much of what has been stated in the chapter on the Austrian Period applies also to the eighteenth century. In particular the material which is available emphasises the physical isolation and limitations of what today we would consider as no more than a village.

Having said that, unfortunately there seem to be relatively few detailed maps of Kazimierz for the 18th and earlier centuries. A bilingual (Polish and English) publication 'Cracow – A Journey in the Past – Kazimierz' (1987) shows two such maps – though neither very clearly. The first is a map of 1703 by A S Buchowski and the second is a fragment of an Austrian map from 1796.

Probably the most detailed map is one from 1785. Unfortunately a visit to Kraków may be required to view it since the map is on display in the entrance to a restaurant on the west side of the main market square, Rynek Główny. (Restauracja Szara, Rynek Główny, 6). This is almost certainly one of the maps referred to by Prof Carter in his book 'Trade and urban development in Poland'. He states that the map is reproduced in *Rocznik Krakowski* Vol IX by S. Tomkowicz. Prof Carter refers to other cartographic sources including *Katalog dawnych map*

wielkoskalowych Krakowa XVI-XIX wieku (Pań. Wyd. Naukowe, 1981).

Census Returns

A good starting point for 18th century research into Jewish genealogy for Kraków is Dan Hirschberg's site www.ics.uci.edu/~dan/genealogy/Krakow/ This lists a number of Jewish documents. Clicking on 'early records (before 1810)' shows how Mr Hirschberg has inferred surnames into the 1790 and 1795 censuses. Databases are given separately for the two censuses as well as births and marriages for the end of the 18th century. The lists reflect a great deal of detective work carried out by reference to birth marriage and death records in the early part of the 19th century. The originals of the censuses can be viewed at the State Archives in Kraków (ul Sienna), or at the Central Archives for the History of Jewish People in the Sprinzak Building on the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

By way of example, the 1795 census shows that the head of the family number 508 at house number 96 was Isaac, the son of Samuel, a candle maker aged 30. The 1790 census shows Isaac living with his parents Samuel, a candle maker aged 45 and Dwora aged 40. The censuses do not in general show surnames because, in practice, these were not adopted by Jewish families in the community until the early part of the 19th century. However by reference to a marriage in 1813, Dan Hirschberg has inferred that Samuel's father was Marcus and that the family name was Weiskertz (meaning 'white candle'). This detective work has in effect added a generation to the Weiskertz tree, indicating that Marcus was born say 25 years before Samuel in

about 1720. The location of house number 96 can be seen to have been in ulica Ciemna (Dark Street) by reference to the map at the front of volume II of Majer Bałaban's work.

An article 'Matching Patronymics to Surnames in Cracow' appeared in the August, 2001 issue of 'The Galitzianer', the journal of Gesher Galicia.

Dan Hirschberg is based at the Computer Science Department at the University of California. His contact details are given on his site. The work which he has carried out has enabled him to compile over 700 early family trees which can be accessed from the site.

It may be thought that the introduction of census returns into the Kraków area arose largely as a result of Austrian influence. However, even before the Austrian occupation information relating to the Jewish community had been collected by the Roman Catholic Church. An article on this subject is 'Sources for Jewish History in the 18th Century in Church Archives' by Stanislaw Litak of the Catholic University of Lublin. This work was included in 'Bibliographies of Polish Judaica' presented to an International Symposium in Kraków, in 1988.

Working backwards we find that the Church carried out a census of the Diocese of Kraków in 1787. A copy of that census (which may list numbers of people rather than names) is possibly held at the archives of the Bishop. The 1787 census is described in an article 'Jews and the Village in the Polish Commonwealth' by Antoni Podraza. This appears in 'The Jews in Old Poland 1000 – 1795'. The article in turn refers to a study by Józef Kleczyński 'Spis ludności diecezji krakowskiej z r.

1787' (the 1787 census of the population of the Kraków diocese; Archiwum Komisji Historycznej PAU7, Kraków 1894 pp 269-478).

According to some authorities several rather inaccurate censuses were conducted throughout what became Galicia during the 1770's. For example, Isaac Lewin has referred to censuses in 1773, 1774 and 1776 ('The Jewish Community in Poland', chapter XII, entitled 'The Jews in Galicia')

An even earlier census is the 1764/5 census which is described in Chapter 25 of Majer Bałaban's book, 'Historja Żydów w Krakowie i na Kazimierzu 1304 – 1868'. Specifically reference should be made to the section of the chapter described as 'Statystyka ludności żydowskiej w r. 1765'. Unfortunately, the census itself seems to have been lost. It is likely that the 1765 census contained numbers rather than names.

In his work 'Generations' (page 100) George J Alexander comments that for centuries registers of inhabitants of Poland were kept by Roman Catholic parish priests. He states 'The Jews were mostly registered by local rabbis under supervision of the priests who were supposed to check the accuracy of the census lists.'

In 1989 Dr Shaul Stampfer published an extensive work on 'The 1764 Census of Polish Jewry' (Bar Ilan: Annual of Bar Ilan University, Studies in Judaica and the Humanities 24-25, and see work by Raphael Mahler mentioned in Prof Hundert's work 'Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the Eighteenth Century'.)

Further references to the 1787 and 1764/5 censuses and Kraków are given in an article 'The Urbanised Jewry of Sandomierz and Lublin Provinces in the 18th Century' by Jadwiga Muszyńska (Studia Judaica 2: 1999 No 2(4)). Sadly, in relation to the 1764/5 census, the author states 'Following the destruction of the last war we are left with only those lists for Jewish taxpayers from Baranów, Końskowola, and Staszów. One must live in hope, however, that some detailed lists for Kraków will come to light in the fullness of time, possibly in the Archives of the Archbishop.

Lists of Householders

The site established by Dan Hirschberg gives information not only about late 18th century census returns but also a list of householders. Clicking on 'early records' leads to a database of house owners with a description 'these are 1807 listings except for Stradom and Kasimierz which are 1797'. Several of the households have been cross referenced to the censuses and to records of the early 19th century. For example, house 96 is shown as being occupied by Isaak (son of) Samuel. The surname of Weisskerze is inferred and reference is made to 'census family 508, house 96'.

An alternative version of the listing was at one time available on www.ics.uci.edu/~dan/genealogy/Krakov/hs1797.htm

This alternative list describes each building and gives an area measured in square fathoms, a fathom being about six feet. Thus house 96 is described as a wooden house in a cross (side) street and having an area of 29 square fathoms. This appears to have been little more than a large shed which, according to the 1795 census was occupied by no fewer than 17 people.

Reference has been made in an earlier chapter to the State Archive catalogue, 'Inwentarz archiwum miasta Kazimierza pod Krakowem, 1335 – 1802'. On page 244 of the catalogue is a reference to a list of house holders in 1776. (references K8003 and J10437). This seems to relate to the Christian quarter of Kazimierz. Arguably rather more promising from a Jewish perspective is the next item in the catalogue (K804/J10438). This is a list of chimneys in Kazimierz (and other districts, e.g. Stradom) prepared in 1790 in accordance with the Constitution of 1775. It apparently relates to the payment of a tax on chimneys. The record describes the buildings which are listed rather than mentioning the names of the householders. It may however be of use to researchers. For example house number 53 on Ul. Jakoba is described as the house of a soap maker (mydlarskiego). That is a trade closely associated with candle making, so one could speculate a link with the occupants of house 96 on Ul Ciemna. A more plausible speculation is that the 1790 listing relates to the stone or brick properties owned by wealthier citizens rather than the numerous wooden buildings which were occupied by poor tenants.

Cemeteries

References have been made in earlier chapters to the book 'The Jewish Cemeteries in Cracow' which was published by the Association of Cracovians in Israel. The major part of this work lists burials in the Miodowa Street Cemetery, which was not opened until the very beginning of the nineteenth century. However, pages 33 and 34 of the book list various gravestones

from the 18th and earlier centuries, which are located in the old Remu Cemetery.

Two other publications give much more detailed accounts of the old cemetery. The first of these is 'Stary Żydowski Cmentarz w Krakowie' by Leszek Hońdo, 1999. This is wholly in Polish but includes not only illustrations but also a detailed description of the wording to be found on gravestones. This work was reviewed in volume 16 of 'Polin' with a response by the author in volume 19. The second book is 'Katalog Zabytków Sztuki Kraków – Kazimierz, Stradom', published by the Polish Academy of Sciences in 1995. This work includes a large number of photographs and an alphabetic list of names.

The State Archives

The holdings of the State Archives in Kraków include records of births, deaths and marriages from the end of the 18th century onwards. Generally, these relate to the period after the beginning of the Austrian occupation. Some authorities (for example the catalogue of The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People) indicate that the Archives hold vital records from 1788, but in reality the documents available for research start only ten years later. These can be searched on the Shoresheim and Dan Hirschberg sites.

The detailed work 'Jewish Roots in Poland – Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories' (1997) by Miriam Weiner indicates that the following types of 18th century document are held at the Archives in Kraków in addition to those which have already been mentioned in this chapter:

Land documents 1790 -1794

Tax lists 1796 – 1809

List of Jewish doorkeepers 1550 – 1860

Local government records

These categories of documents are also listed on Miriam Weiner's site <http://rtrfoundation.org> . Additionally the site indicates that the Archives in Kraków hold lists of property owners in Kazimierz for the years 1790 to 1794.

A further source of information is the Registers of the Customs authorities. Reference to these registers will be made in later chapters. The Registers relate to trade between merchants in Kraków and merchants in other cities. They therefore do not give information relating to those whose trading was restricted to within the local community. It is worth mentioning here, however, that a joint academic work was published in 1985 under the title 'Jewish Trade in Cracow at the end of the 16th Century and in the 17th.' In a footnote it is mentioned that The State Archives also hold 47 registers for the 18th century. These are for the years 1701 to 1767 (with some gaps) and for 1792. The Archive references are given as MS 2203-2238 and 2240-2250.

Customs registers are the subject of a detailed study described in 'Jewish Trade in the Century of Kraków's Decline' (A chapter in 'The Jews of Old Poland 1000 – 1795 ed. Antony Polonsky et al) . The Author, Janina Bieniarzówna, states that there is a gap in the records between 1713 and 1744. However, she refers specifically to registers for 1701 and 1751 and gives Archive references 2203, 2217 and 2219.

Very detailed research into the customs registers of Kraków forms that basis of Prof. F W Carter's work 'Trade and urban development in Poland – An economic geography of Cracow, from its origins to 1795' (Cambridge University Press). He states that the Kraków Archives hold registers for various years between 1589 and 1792 under the description *Regestra thelonei civitatis Cracoviensis* (syg 2115 – 2250).

Prof Carter also refers to material on house rents in the city for years between 1545 and 1774 (syg 1964 – 1975).

Further information relating to trade is, of course, to be found in Prof Bałaban's work 'Historja Żydów w Krakowie i na Kazimierzu 1304 – 1868'. Chapter 22 includes a description of the trade and industry of the Jews of Kraków in the second half of the 18th century.

Although the Archives at ul. Sienna 16 are of most interest to genealogists, one must not overlook the branch of the Archives at The Wawel Castle (telephone 12 422 23 4, open Mondays to Fridays 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.) The Archives website states that the Wawel site contains 'Old Polish Files of Cities, Districts, Family Archives and Other Collections'. A brief visit to the Archives in 2008 did not reveal any specific documents of Jewish genealogical interest relating to Kraków but the search carried out on that occasion was short, and certainly not exhaustive. In any event a visit to the Wawel site is of considerable general historical interest.

The Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw

As noted previously, Miriam Weiner's site <http://rtrfoundation.org> lists various records relating to the

Kraków community which are held at The Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. Unfortunately information which is readily available is not precise as to the years to which particular groups of records relate. The listings on the site database (and also in the book 'Jewish Roots in Poland') merely give the period '1701-1939'. The Institute website itself is not significantly more helpful. However a visit to the Institute in 1996 revealed at least 45 documents relating to the 18th century Jewish community of Kraków. Many of the documents relate to financial matters such as taxation and debt disputes. A difficulty for researchers is that the documents were written in Old Polish or Yiddish. Furthermore, where documents show names of individuals these rarely include surnames but are written in the old style of first name and patronym, for example Herszla Izraelewicz. Having said all that, documents such as the following deserve further research, possibly by linking names from the documents into work carried out on 1790 census as disclosed on the Dan Hirschberg site.

1732-1750 List of Levi'im (Levy's/Levites)

1751-1752 Money lending between private individuals

1765 Taxes, debts, list of Jewish goods taken by Catholic Poles

1771 Passports for Kraków citizens

1771 Jewish and Polish inhabitants of the city

1772 Elections for the Jewish Kehilla

1773 About the number of Jewish inhabitants in and around the city

1773 Bills and obligations – questions relating to particular individuals

1774 About the burning (loss in a fire) of very important papers in the Jewish community

- 1776 Nominations for Chief Rabbi, and papers regarding debts
- 1780 Documents regarding the Feivisch Abramowicz case
- 1781 Elections in the Jewish community
 Case of Herzel Giebnicki
- 1786-1799 Court decisions about debts between the Kehilla and private individuals
- 1786-1795 The posting of military forces in the community
- 1792 Land tax, hospital tax, bills of taxes
- 1794 Disputes including those concerning Birnbaum, and Elchonon Ickowicz
- 1796 The liquidation of Birnbaum's debts
- 1798 Place tax and housing tax (for lodgers?)

The following documents are notable because they include the names of various individuals, although as previously indicated the names are in patronymic form rather than with family or surnames.

A 1786 document relating to loans by six named individuals and witnessed by Rabbi Jozef Saulowicz.

A 1782 cash book relating to tax collectors or 'boni viri' (a second category of citizen ranking below the leaders or parnassim) listing the names of nine individuals, and

A document, possibly a petition, dated 1772 describing very poor living conditions during times of military occupation. 1772 was the year in which the Austrian army entered Kraków, following the collapse of the Confederacy Bar (1768-1772) which has been mentioned earlier in this chapter. The document on page 3 refers to the elders of various synagogues and it is signed at the end by a total of 41 named individuals.

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People

The Central Archives based at the Hebrew University at Jerusalem have been mentioned in previous chapters and are now mentioned again in relation to 18th century records. The Archives hold copies of many of the documents which are held at The Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. Furthermore the Archive Catalogue published by Avotaynu in 2004 includes the following items

The censuses of 1790 and 1795/6

Birth and death registers from 1788

Banns, marriage and divorce registers from 1798

A page from the community minute book, 1771

A regulation by the Council of The Four Lands concerning Kraków, 1717

Court records and legal documents concerning individual Jews

Records of the Rabbinical Court (Beth Din), and the Royal and Municipal Courts

Regulations concerning the Jews and their economic life

Papers regarding litigation between the Jewish community and municipal authorities

Taxes paid by the community, 1793

Complaints of townsmen

Documents relating to the brewers', and tailors' trade guilds

Confirmation of a charter granted by former Kings

Registers of Jewish inhabitants and taxes paid by them, 1705 to 1708

Papers relating to the Sieniawski family, 1709 to 1728

Accounts and profits from properties, 1761 to 1763

Documents regarding various financial matters, 1773 to 1776

Inventories concerning properties, 1730

Litigation concerning a Jewish salt merchant, 1762 to 1783
Papers regarding a dispute concerning the billeting of soldiers,
1783, and
Records of the Koscherfleisch Kommission, 1797 to 1802 and
concerning tax on kosher meat, 1796 to 1797

The Works of Majer Bałaban

Following the pattern of the last chapter, reference should now be made to the extensive academic works of the historian Prof Majer Bałaban.

The most readily available example of the Professor's work in English is his article 'Jews in Krakow at the time of the Confederacy Bar (1768-72)' This can be found at www.ics.uci.edu/~dan/genealogy/krakow/other/bal.htm . Other works by the Professor are listed in the bibliography at the back of the book 'Stary Żydowski Cmentarz w Krakowie' by Leszek Hońdo. However, the main resource is the two volume work *Historja Żydów w Krakowie i na Kazimierzu, 1304 – 1868*. This has been translated into Ivrit as 'Toldot ha'Yehudim b'Krakov uve Kazimierz 1304 – 1868'. The work was published in 1931 (Volume 1) and 1936 (Volume 2), effectively as a second edition of a work 'Dzieje Żydów w Krakowie i na Kazimierzu' which was published just before the First World War.

The volumes which have been described include an alphabetic index of names of individuals and also a number of genealogical charts. Those charts which include the eighteenth century refer to the following families:-

Mojzesz Izakowicz (the Jekeles family)

Jozue ben Jozef
Rabbi Heszl Krakowa z Wahl (showing Hirszel Lewin rabbi in
London)
Rabbi Codek Parnas
Lejzorowicz and Abrahamowicz
Wlochowicz
Rszach-Kantorowicz
Judy Lejba, Rabbi's wife

Landa-Lewitow
Tomim-Frankel
Kalohara
Bornstein
Landau
Gumplowicz

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Historical Background

The book 'The Jews of Cracow' by Eugeniusz Duda describes the seventeenth century as a period of two halves. The first half, together with the 16th century, was the best period in the history of the Polish and Cracovian Jewry in Old Poland. It was a period of considerable spiritual and material wealth. However, the 1650's saw the start of a period of deterioration, starting with the Swedish invasion, followed by increasing anti Jewish sentiment and a weakening of authority which eventually lead to the three partitions of the Kingdom. This deterioration is described by several authorities. For example a chapter in George J Alexander's work 'Generations' is entitled 'Decline of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth 1648 – 1796'.

A further source is 'The Jews in Old Poland, 1000 – 1795' edited by Anthony Polonsky and others (Taurus Publishers, 1993). This work includes two chapters which relate to Kraków:-

The Kraków Vovoid's Jurisdiction over Jews; A Study of the Historical Records of the Kraków Vovoid's Administration of Justice to Jews and
Jewish Trade in the Century of Kraków's Decline.

It is sometimes difficult to appreciate that even during the 'golden age' of the early part of the century, the geographical area of Kazimierz was very small. A map of the period is one of several in 'Ulice I Place Krakowskiego Kazimierza' by Bogusław Krasnowolski (published in Krakow, 1992, by 'Universitas'). This shows an area of significantly less than a

square mile not only surrounded on all sides by the River Vistula but also hemmed in on all sides by the town's wall.

Most Jewish genealogical researchers will not be fortunate enough to be able to trace their families back to the 17th century. Nevertheless, it must not be assumed that no genealogical information is available from this period. The work by Prof Bałaban is a fruitful source of information. Even if the reader does not understand Polish or Ivrit there are useful leads. For example Eugeniusz Duda names the following individuals as the wealthiest and most active amongst the Jewish merchants and financiers in the first half of the 17th century:-

Pincas Horowic – a community elder

Isaac Jakubowicz and his son Moses

Wolf Bocian (Popper)

Salamon Wlochowicz, a merchant and banker

Lewek Markowicz, a merchant and community elder

And also Lewek Swietlik, Wolf Esterczyk, Jozef Wloch and Marek Bocian.

The websites which have been mentioned in earlier chapters have little, if any, information about the seventeenth century. Where information is available, whether on websites or elsewhere, it tends to relate to Rabbinical families, or those wealthy families who are engaged in trade. For example the site of Dan Hirschberg which has been mentioned previously lists 14 named individuals from Kraków who attended the Leipzig fairs in the last quarter of the century

Information about specific traders is also to be found in Gershon Hundert's article 'Jews, Money and Society in the Seventeenth

Century Polish Commonwealth; The Case of Kraków'. This appeared in 'Jewish Social Studies' Vol 43, New York, 1981. The work is based on the research of Prof Bałaban and an examination of Court records for the years 1620 to 1649.

Customs Registers

A source of information which has been researched relatively recently is the Customs Registers which are held in the State Archives in Kraków and elsewhere. This research has resulted in the publication of at least two books which may have genealogical value. One of these is 'Żydzi w Handlu Krakowa w Połowie XVII Wieku' (Jews in Krakow Trade in the Middle of the 17th Century) by Szymon Kazusek, published in 2005. Unfortunately this is published entirely in Polish apart from a very brief summary in German. Furthermore the book does not have a names index.

The second book is therefore of greater use to the general genealogical reader, if for no other reason than it has been published in bilingual form, Polish and English. It is called 'Jewish Trade in Cracow at the end of the 16th Century and in the 17th,' and was published in Kraków in 1995. The book describes a general background to Jewish Trade in the Region as well as describing how the Registers have been compiled. Detailed records have been extracted for seven years in particular and the book contains three indexes, i.e. by names of individual traders, by geography (i.e. location of trading) and by type of merchandise.

As noted in the previous chapter of this Guide, the Customs Registers are the basis of the work 'Trade and urban

development in Poland – An economic geography of Cracow, from its origins to 1795'. The author of that work, Prof. F.W.Carter has identified three groups of records that arguably require further genealogical research.

- a) *Regestra thelonei civitatis Cracoviensis* (sygn 2115 – 2250) which are books recording customs duty received by the city, but with a gap for the years 1689 to 1700.
- b) *Regestra novi thelonei civitatis Cracoviensis* (sybn 2251 – 2270) which are twenty books covering the period from 1659 to 1679 and
- c) Registers on bridge tolls 1615 – 1628 described as *Regastra pontalium Cracoviensis* (sygn 2271 – 2273).

Additionally, as noted in the previous chapter, Customs Registers are the subject of a detailed study described in 'Jewish Trade in the Century of Kraków's Decline' (a chapter in 'The Jews of Old Poland 1000 – 1795 ed. Antony Polonsky et al). The author, Janina Bieniarzówna, refers to the registers for 1661 and 1681 stating that these are held at the State Archives in Kraków under references 2177 and 2196.

Cemeteries

As noted in an earlier chapter, 'The Jewish Cemeteries in Cracow' published by The Association of Cracovians in Israel includes (on pages 33 and 34) a list of 18th century and earlier graves in the Remu Cemetery. Some two dozen relate to the 17th century.

Rather more information, including photographs is included in the Catalogue of Art Monuments in Poland, Volume IV, Part VI (Kazimierz and Stradom) published by the Polish Academy of

Sciences, Institute of Art in 1995.

Yet more detailed information is to be found in Leszek Hońdo's work 'Stary Żydowski Cmentarz w Krakowie' published in 1999. This book is subtitled 'A History of the Cemetery and an Analysis of Hebrew Inscriptions'. Unfortunately, from the perspective of most genealogical researchers, the book is in Polish only. On the other hand it does include an index of names and an extensive bibliography.

Archives

Seventeenth century documents are almost certainly held at the State Archives in Kraków (both at ul Sienna and in the Wawel Castle) and Warsaw, as well as at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. Unfortunately, however, the holdings at those locations which are likely to be relevant to Jewish genealogy have not been catalogued in a form which is readily available. On the other hand the Catalogue of The Central Archives of the History of Jewish People published in 2004 by Avotaynu lists a significant number of documents. Several of these relate to trade disputes and regulations relating to Jewish trade. Other papers relate to property ownership and property leases and to taxation. For example the Archives hold the following:-

Court records and legal documents concerning individual Jews

Records of the Rabbinical Court

Records of the Wojewoda's Court for the Jews, 1620 – 1642

Files of the Tailors' Guild and

Records of taxes paid to the Swedish Commisar in Kraków, 1657

The Wojewoda's Court for the Jews is the subject of an article by Stanisław Grodziski entitled 'The Kraków Voivode's Jurisdiction over Jews; A Study of the Historical Records of the Kraków Voivode's Administration of Justice to Jews'. This appears in 'The Jews in Old Poland 1000 – 1795' published in association with The Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies, Oxford. Unfortunately, however, the author does not indicate the location or archive references of the various source documents.

The Works of Majer Bałaban

The extensive works of Prof Bałaban have been mentioned in previous chapters. It is to be hoped that in due course more of his work will be translated into English. Regarding the 17th century, the following work by the Professor relating to the Jewish community in Kraków is listed by Leszek Hońdo in his work on the Old Remu Cemetery:-

Italienische und spanische Aerzte und Apotheker im XVI und XVII Jahrhundert in Krakau in 'Monatsschrift fur Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judenthums', 1894, pages 173 – 183

However the main work which is likely to be of interest to Jewish genealogists is the Professor's 'main' work which has already been mentioned. That is his two volume work 'Historia Żydów w Krakowie i na Kazimierzu, 1304 – 1868'. The genealogical charts which relate to the seventeenth century concern the following families in addition to several of the families which have been listed at the end of the chapter on the 18th century:-

Jakubowicz, Rappaport, Landau, Popper – Bocian, Markowicz, Kozuchow, Lewka Swietlika, Morawczyk, Wlochow, Abraham

Szmuklerz, Samuel z Padwy, and Jozef syna Gerszon

Very many more individuals and families are listed in the detailed index of names which is included at the back of the second volume of Prof Bałaban's work

THE SIXTEENTH AND EARLIER CENTURIES

Historical Background

Very few Jewish genealogists will be lucky enough to be able to trace their families back as far as the 16th century. Yet it would be improper to fail to mention this period, if for no other reason it included the 'Golden Age' of the Jewish community in Kraków – an age of immense commercial and spiritual growth during which, despite (in modern terms) its very small geographical area, Kazimierz became a major centre of Jewish learning. The 15th and 16th centuries saw the building of several fine synagogues and the works of towering Rabbinical leaders. These included Reb Moshe Isserles, known as 'The Remu', whose shul is to this day used for regular worship.

The limited geographical extent of the district under discussion in these early times is illustrated by the maps and plans shown in works which have been mentioned elsewhere in this Guide. Examples are 'Ulice i Place Krakowskiego Kazimierza' by Bogusław Krasnowolski and 'Trade and Urban Development in Poland' by Prof. F W Carter.

As for the 17th century, such records of genealogical interest as are available relate mainly to Rabbinical families or wealthy families engaged in trade. Actually these two categories were not mutually exclusive. For example The Remu's father traded on an international scale. Following the pattern set out in the last chapter, therefore, the main genealogical sources are as follows.

Many of the works which have been mentioned in previous chapters of this Guide refer in some detail to this early period.

Principally, of course, is volume 1 of the work by Prof Bałaban, but reference can also be made to such relatively minor works as 'Juden in Krakau' by Jehuda L Stein, and 'The Jews of Cracow' by Eugeniusz Duda.

Also worthy of note is the article 'Across the River; How and why the Jews of Kraków settled in Kazimierz at the End of the Fifteenth Century' by Hannah Zaremska, which appeared in volume 22 of 'Polin'.

Municipal Records

In 1995, a consortium of academic institutions published a book 'The Jews in Mediaeval Cracow'. This was prepared by Bożena Wyrozumska. The book starts with a short summary, in Polish and English, of records kept by the municipal authorities from the latter part of the 14th century and into the 15th. These include records maintained by the magistrates' bench and the city council. The authors explain that the magistrates handled not so much matters of litigation but mainly matters relating to immovable property. The records, which were written in Latin, therefore relate largely to commercial transactions, including loans. The book gives readers the benefit of three indexes, listing entries by name of individual, place and subject matter.

As noted in earlier chapters, Prof. Carter has identified a number of early trade records in his work 'Trade and urban development in Poland – An economic geography of Cracow, from its origins to 1795'. These records include Libri taxorum, starting with the year 1554 and 'Foralia' (with Archive codes sygn 1511 – 1522) as well as rent records from 1545 onwards (sygn 1523 onwards). He has also identified records relating to

specific customs duties for the years 1503 to 1592 (sygn 2314 to 1352 and 2353 to 2367).

Cemeteries

The mediaeval cemetery for the Jewish population of Kraków was situated close to the old Jewish quarter. That is to say in what is now part of the University area on ul. św. Anny (Saint Anne's Street) which leads from the eastern corner of Rynek Główny, the main market square. An article by Eugeniusz Duda and Jodłowiec-Dziedzic in 'Powiększenie' ('Blow up' or 'Enlargement') places the cemetery outside the city walls close to present day Czysła Street. By the end of the 15th century, however, the community had largely moved to the separate township of Kazimierz. Accordingly the year 1552 saw the opening of the Remu cemetery which was used until 1800.

The Remu cemetery is described in a number of books which have been described in earlier chapters, but most particularly in Leszek Hońdo's work 'Stary Żydowski Cmentarz w Krakowie'. Several 16th century grave stones have survived, including those of Moshe Isserlis and members of his family.

The map at the front of volume two of Prof. Bałaban's work shows an old cemetery (stary cmentarz) at the northern end of ul. Szeroka, not far from the Remu cemetery, and actually located in the centre of the road. This small plot adjoins an alms house (ptztyulić ubogich). Records for this small cemetery have yet to be identified, but they may never be discovered if the plots relate only to pauper's graves. A photograph of the walled cemetery is included in volume two of the work by Prof. Bałaban. In the article which has already been mentioned,

Eugeniusz Duda and Anna Jodłowiec-Dziedzic imply that the small walled cemetery was established before the Remu cemetery was opened. The plot is currently the site of a small garden.

Archives

It is quite possible that early records of the Kraków Jewish community remain to be discovered in the state archives in Kraków (including the branch at the Wawel Castle). Possibly, too, records may be found in Warsaw, though that city was not the capital of Poland during the early part of Polish Jewish history. For the time being, examples of what is available can be seen in the 2004 edition of the Catalogue of the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People. These archives are located at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The documents held at the archives relate mainly to trading privileges granted to the community, loans, and disputes, and taxation

The Works of Majer Bałaban

Two works by Prof Bałaban relating to the 16th century are listed by Leszek Hońdo in his bibliography at the back of his book on the Old Remu Cemetery. These are:-

Italienische und spanische Aerzte und Apotheker im XVI und XVII Jahrhundert in Krakau in 'Monatsschrift für Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judenthums', 1894 and
Die Krakauer Judengemeinde-Ordnung von 1595 und ihre Nachträge in 'Jahrbuch der Jüdisch-Literarischen Gesellschaft', 1913 and 1916.

More readily available is the Professor's work *Historja Żydów w Krakowie i na Kazimierzu, 1304-1868*. As noted in previous chapters, the work includes a number of genealogical charts relating to prominent families. Several of the charts which mainly concern the 17th century go back into the 16th. Additionally there are charts relating to the following families:-

Horowic, Wahl- Katzenellenbogen, Kalahora, Samuel Bar Meszulam, and of course Moshe Isserlis.

In the Beginning

This short work, having travelled in reverse order through the centuries, comes to its conclusion in the beginning. The start of the Jewish community in Kraków is often stated to be in the year 1304. Certainly this is the year taken by Prof Bałaban. Seven centuries years later Michal Rożek and Henryk Halkowski gave a Memorial Lecture 'The Jews in Cracow – a 700 year History'. This lecture has been published by the Judaica Foundation Center for Jewish Culture. The speakers questioned whether 1304 was both too late and too early. Too late because a number of communal institutions were already in place at that time (according to a chronology prepared by Prof. Carter, the earliest, albeit temporary, Jewish presence on Kraków was in the year 965 when 'Ibrahim ibn Jakub, a Jewish merchant from Spain, recorded a town called Krakowa on a journey through Slavonic territory') - and too early because the community did not take on special significance until the Golden Age of the 16th century. Whatever the answer (and in Jewish matters there are usually at least two answers to every question), there is no doubt that the twin locations of Kraków and

Kazimierz provided communities and institutions for our Jewish ancestors over several centuries and that many records relating to these survive to this day.